

How I developed my research project

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How did my plan evolve?

- **Discussion with clinicians at RMCH regarding observations with their patient undergoing stem cell transplantation**
- **I offered to take the project forward to help us understand what is happening behind the clinical situation**
- **People involved in initial discussions: me! Haematology consultant, my work-based supervisor, my head of department**
- **Haematology consultant helped develop the methodologies to be used and explained the background to the clinical observations**
- **Head of department helped to develop the idea to incorporate other research questions to help answer a problem encountered when Clinical Scientists are selecting potential donors for transplantation**



Supervisors

- **Academic supervisor appointed by University in the same field as the research; make the most of their expertise**
- **Stay in regular contact with updates by email / face to face meetings when possible**
- **Discuss project with your supervisors early and agree which parts of the research will be performed in each year to make it manageable**



Issues

- **Ethical approval required? START NOW!!!**
- **Haematology consultant went on sabbatical (may not return). Had to contact another colleague to obtain clinical input**
- **Second clinical colleague didn't agree with how project proposal was written and new comparisons have been added to the project**
- **Cell culture: had to learn to generate sufficient cells to establish assays before purchasing donated cord blood and granulocytes. Twice had to discard cells, currently purchasing new cell lines**
- **USE YOUR ALLOCATED BUDGET!! But beware ordering perishable reagents too early and passing expiry date**
- **Act quickly if problems encountered as time passes rapidly**

