Impactful researchers know scientific breakthroughs are team projects, built from strong partnerships. Start using these tips today to optimize your collaborations in and out of the lab.

1. Look for a potential collaborator
   Find a potential collaborator through in-person or digital activities by attending conferences and participate in online discussion groups.

2. Evaluate the potential collaboration
   Determine if you and your collaborator are a good fit — consider your goals, communication styles and research approaches.

3. Try cold calling
   Reach out through a cold email or another form of communication — Start a relationship professionally and kindly.

4. Have patience
   It can take a long time to launch a collaboration.

5. Formalize your partnership
   Establish a collaboration agreement and work through potential pitfalls before they arise.

6. Create an inclusive and collegial environment
   Put guidelines in place that promote trust and respect.

7. Follow best practices
   Ensure everyone takes responsibility for research integrity. Each collaborator must follow best practices.

8. Publish
   Publish — or complete your project in another way.

9. Celebrate
   Celebrate the conclusion of your project.

10. Stay in touch
    Stay in touch with your partners — future opportunities might arise.