



Framework as Impetus to improvement in Young Researcher Projects' utilization rate

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AIM

To explore the role of an effective framework to improve the utilization rate of young researchers' projects

METHOD

Over a year ago, PAEDS ACP set up a Research Unit Meeting comprising of 3 elements:



- Working Committee Composition of Senior Clinician Lead, Research Administrative Lead, Finance Lead
- Grant Review Committee Composition of senior Management people

Regular updates on grant balance, award period, project utilization rate

- Lay down
- Terms and Conditions
 - Calendar of reporting
 - Schedule of meetings with awardees
 - Accountability to Grant Review Committee

To provide meaningful information, we organized data in the SAP system using a "Mapping" feature in the Grant Management Module.

1 The SAP's standard "PassThrough" feature was designed to define and pair grants across institutions but we doubled its definition to map awards granted within our own Institution.

- 2 Using the information from Grant Module, we provided bi-monthly simple and meaningful report and presented it at meetings

Sample:

Utilization of 2ND TCL Research and Education Fund Grant 2016 @ 31 Mar 17

31Apr16	31Mar17	31Mar18
Awarded, \$84,570	Balance, \$105,430	
\$190,000		

Tan Cheng Lim Research & Education Fund for FY 2016	GRANT START DATE	GRANT END DATE	GRANT AMOUNT	AMOUNT AWARDED	BALANCE
	1-Apr-16	31-Mar-18	\$190,000	\$84,570	\$105,430

IO NUMBER	PROJECT NAME	Pillar	PI	START DATE	END DATE	AWARD AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE (includes aPI) as at 31 Mar 17	GRANT BALANCE
1000000001	The utility of qualitative: a pilot randomized controlled trial	Research	Dr.K	01/04/2016	31/03/2018	\$34,570	0%	\$34,570.00
1000000002	Ge Registry	Clinical Innovation	Dr.T	01/04/2016	31/03/2018	\$50,000	0%	\$50,000.00
						\$84,570	0%	\$84,570.00

Advantages:

1. By 'mapping' ie defining a "Parent" Grant (given to the Institution) and pairing it to the "Child" projects awarded within the Institution, we can easily read off the balance of the "Parent" Grant that is available for awarding in the next Grant Call. Without so adapting this mapping feature, the monitoring of the available grant balance will be done by summing up the specified projects' Budgets that are awarded against the specified Grant received.
2. Facilitates the comparison of the active grant period of the "Parent" against the in-house "Child" grants. This review facilitates the triggering of grant extension of the Parent Grant, if necessary.

RESULTS

Utilization Report at end of Year 1:

The utilization rate after a year of projects start date was only 0.3%. Due to the projects' sluggish start, we implemented this framework in late FY15.

Utilization Report at end of Year 2:

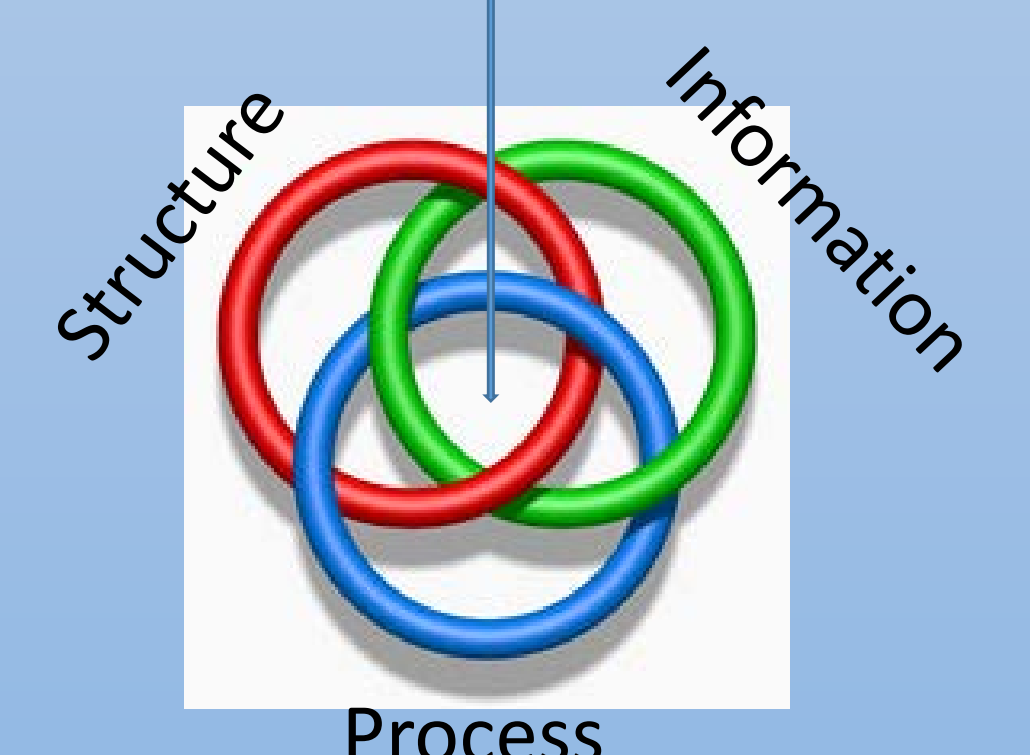
The utilization rate at end of Year 2, ie after about fifteen months of implementation of the framework, was 37%.

- 3 And followed-up with a biennial report to the Review Committee

CONCLUSION

The 3 basic elements of an effective **Structure**, regular provision of timely **Information** and well-defined **Processes** do provide an impetus to support young researchers in moving their project activities. Secondly, there are rooms to optimize existing IT tools to improve data management and reporting.

Impetus to young researchers project growth



Utilization rate went from 0.3% to 37% in the year. We observed that this was partly due to the natural progression of activities but mostly to the structured approach to monitoring and keeping tab of the projects' progress. The framework provided an agile approach to research management and an effective interaction platform with the younger PIs.