Case Example

Dr. Binder, a biomedical scientist, has entered into a collaboration with Dr. Gorge Hernández, a chemist at a university in Mexico. The goal of the research is to isolate, purify and test four compounds found in herbal medicine to slow cancer growth in humans through their ability to block progression of the cell cycle *in vitro*. A scientist Dr. Garcia, sent by Dr. Hernández, has difficulties learning *in vitro* cell culture work and will not be able to take the information back to Mexico. Dr. Binder doesn’t wish to speak poorly of Dr. Garcia and is concerned that criticism of Dr. Garcia could hurt the collaborative effort between her and Dr. Hernández.

Case Example Questions

* Were the expectations of the collaboration clearly defined?
* Were the expectations reasonable?
* Is transfer of methodologies between scientific institutions important?
* Does one institution bear any responsibility for assisting another institution?

Case Example

Dr. Bean is an infectious disease researcher who studies the transmission of fungal infections among athletes. He would like to take samples from locker rooms used by professional sports teams but has been unable to form a collaborative relationship with any of the teams. He is finally able to convince the athletes from various sports teams to let him have scrapings from their feet in order look for fungal infections. He also administers a survey asking about footwear and over-the-counter use of anti-fungal medication. Team owners on finding out about the athletes participation are livid. They accuse him of going around them to obtain information from their athletes.

Case Example Questions

* What are Dr. Bean’s responsibilities to the athletic teams?
* What, if anything, would you do differently in designing and implementing such a study?
* Do you think Dr. Bean is mindful of the context in which he is attempting to launch his research project?
* Does the institution share some responsibility for ensuring community engagement?