

ORGANIZING TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
A Breast Cancer and the Environment Collaborative Model
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This book chapter is about team research and how some teams work on large problems that none of the members could solve if they worked alone. The BCERC/P was used as an example of this kind of research team. One goal of the team was to create and send out information on the ways that the environment can cause breast cancer. Another goal was to send out information on the best ways to prevent breast cancer. The chapter looks at the BCERC/P as a group that needs to do four things in order to learn together. First, the team has to think as a single unit even though the problem is very complex. This shows that team members all need different kinds of training and knowledge. Next, the team has to create rules that will guide their work, and they have to be able to govern themselves. The team needs to be able to coordinate the activity from all of the different groups on the team. Last, they need to be able to send the information out to the public. Even though this is a good way to do research, there are challenges that we found. First, it was hard at times to collaborate and to share information. It was hard to work with others who were at different places in the United States. It was hard to decide when to share information. It was hard to create respect among all team members.

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