

## Storyline Focus groups publication culture

### **The key questions for this study are:**

- What is publication culture at the academic hospitals/in biomedical science?
- Are there differences in perception of publication culture between the various researchers in rank?
- What are the limiting and stimulating factors in the current publication culture?
- What can be changed that will improve the publication culture?

### **Introduction for participants**

- Welcome
- Introduction of the moderator and assistant
- Why this research?
- How will the focus group interview look like? What can you expect?  
Invite all to share ideas, opinions and personal experiences. What is important to you, what are your ideas, concerns and suggestions?
- The role of the moderator. The participants will discuss as much as possible themselves. The discussion leader is there only to keep up the pace and occasionally to guide the discussion. There are no right or wrong answers. What matters is what you think and why you have these perceptions and thoughts? The moderator will be neutral and objective.
- There will be written a report from the focus group and it will be audiotaped. Participants will be anonymous recorded
- Based on the group discussions, we make a report and we discuss how medical scientists think about publication culture.
- If you are interested you can get a final report. This we note afterwards.
- If you have any questions before we start?

### **Introduction of the theme by moderator:**

Open round to get to know each other and feel comfortable with each other to have a soil for an open discussion.

First we invite participants to express why they are publishing. What are the main reasons to be scientifically active?

Then the exploration of the current problems in publication culture. We ask participants to write down the first 3 themes they were thinking of when they think of publication culture.

Participants will be asked to write down the answers of these two questions in a couple of minutes to make sure everybody has a complete answer.

### **The group discussions**

Exploration of the major themes that came up with the participants when they thought of publication culture The 3 themes the participants brought up are used as the most important aspect of the focus group. The participants had to discuss what themes they wanted to discuss in the 2 hours the session lasted and should answer the following per theme:

What are your barriers and stimulating factors in publishing scientific articles?

What can be improved in the current publication culture? How exactly can this be done?

**Finishing part of the focus group:**

Imagine you're old, gray and old. One evening you look back on your life and particularly the current episode. You think back again to publishing scientific articles?

- Try to imagine for yourself what made the strongest impression on you?
- What made the difference in your scientific career?
- What were your major failures?
- What would you do the same?
- What would you do differently?

**Instruction for moderator to give a short summary and conclusion of the focus group**

Draw a brief summary of the discussions.

Ask to participants if we forgot to discuss important themes

Any other suggestions?

**Instructions for moderator to stimulate fair discussion:**

Are the outlined perceptions and opinions, shared by the rest of the group?

So no, what are the differences?

What would you improve in the publication process?

Stimulate participants that hardly express their thoughts and ask active participants to create space for others.