

# Health × Design

## Seven ways to foster interdisciplinary collaboration in research involving healthcare and creative research disciplines

### Summary

Healthcare and creative professionals come from different worlds that do not automatically align. Most research on the collaboration between healthcare and design focusses on collaboration of designers/design researchers with healthcare practice. We investigated the collaboration between the two research disciplines. We found seven strategies to foster interdisciplinary collaboration in ten research projects that involve healthcare and creative research disciplines.

### Methods

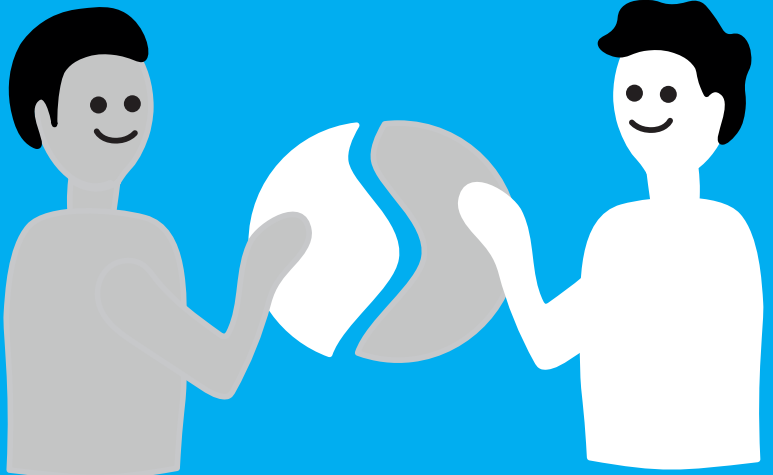
Sample: ten research projects within the ZonMw programme Create Health – E-health knowledge base for a healthy and active old age.

Data: research proposals and interviews with the project leader and/or main researcher.

Analysis: qualitative analysis using Atlas.ti.

Theoretical framework: Boundary crossing theory

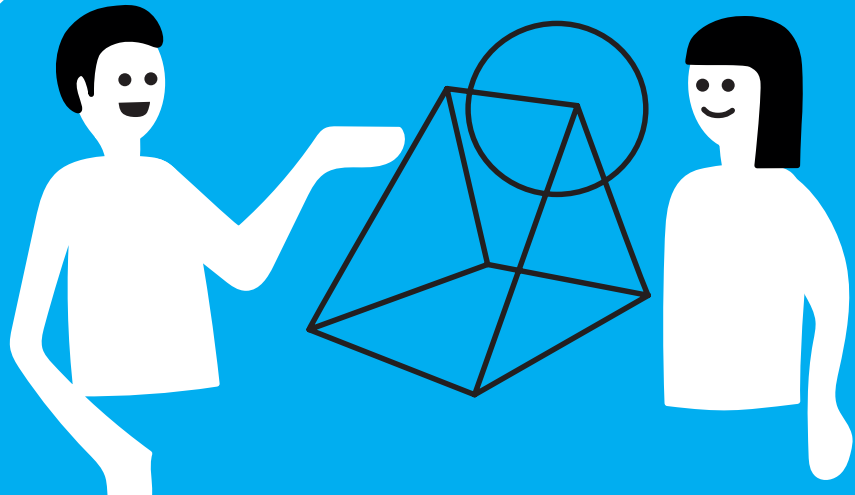
### Results



**Combine research approaches**  
e.g. Mixing qualitative and quantitative methods



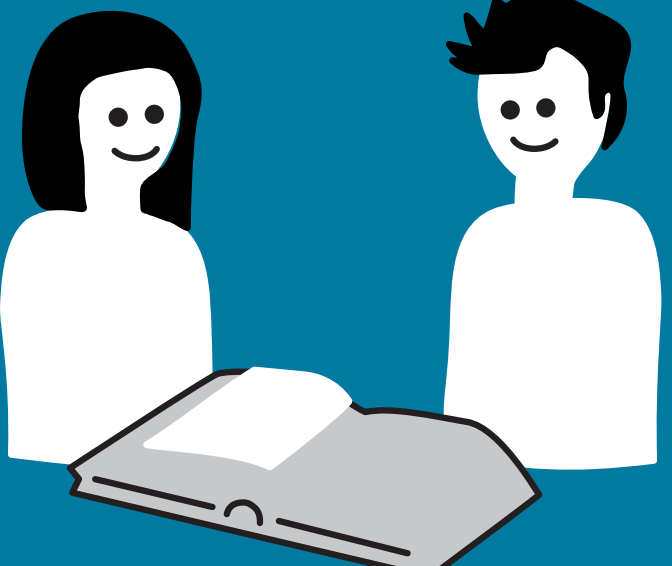
**Organize for collaboration**  
e.g. Interdisciplinary steering committee or project team



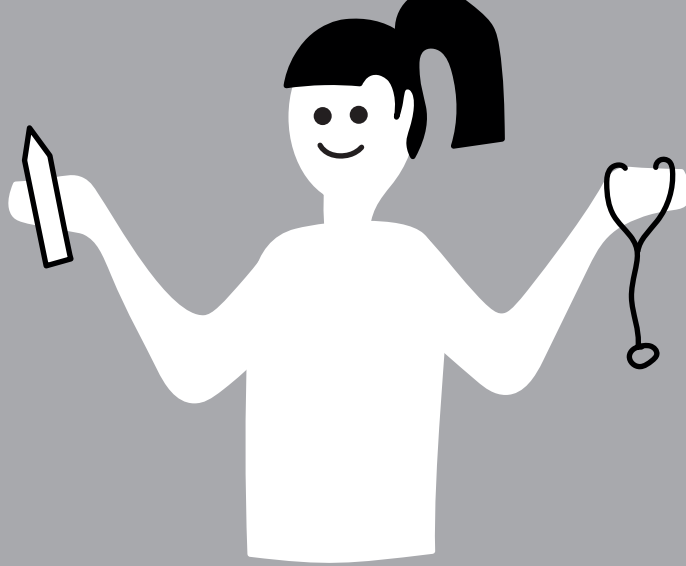
**Use artefacts to convey meaning**  
Use artefacts to avoid misunderstanding in explaining methods



**Separate activities**  
Clearly dividing work packages, or explicitly highlighting and discussing differences



**Combine theories**  
e.g. Find common ground between people-centered design with patient-centered care



**Use boundary brokers**  
People with experience in different fields, or with an explicit task to cross boundaries



**Joint activities**  
Organize collaborative meetings and events, e.g. collaborative data analysis session

### Team

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Dit project wordt mogelijk gemaakt door:

Partners:

Diabetes Fonds



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