

15th Jan 2019

Review of Pooling

Comments from past Director of SINAPSE

I am aware that you will receive formal responses from SINAPSE and from the University of Edinburgh, so I'll be brief and try not to duplicate other material. I have two additional comments, hopefully constructive ones.

1. **Judging the performance of Pools.** There are many performance indicators that can be used to assess Pools, but it is important to consider the continuing engagement of participants. Many of the SINAPSE participants are clinical academics. In addition to academic pressures they have clinical duties, and their time is precious. If they weren't completely convinced of the value of pooling, they would wind down their engagement and the pool would slowly atrophy. What is happening, however, is that the number of participants is growing year on year and is now well over 600. The number of collective activities is increasing and they are being well supported.
2. **Helping Pools to be more effective.** Engagement with partners, in particular with industry, is an important aspect of pooling. With any engagement you need something to put on the table. Expertise and facilities are helpful, but the ability to offer joint funding is often a deal maker. The recent SINAPSE Seed Fund studentships, in addition to helping to develop the careers of top class researchers, brought in more than double the SFC financial contribution. Surely this is a good use of public funds, and I hope that it will be considered in the next round of funding.

Regards



David Wyper (Director of SINAPSE from 2010 to 2017)