Re-envisioning Collaborative Research Environments

Proximity and collaboration offer clear advantages for translational research. Recognizing the urgency of science and R&D to solve global challenges, UIDP held a virtual workshop in April 2021, bringing together more than 60 participants representing university and industry perspectives. In an interactive setting, they considered recent and ongoing developments shaping collaborative work and shared their ideas for changes they would like to see in an ideal future. Five major themes emerged from the workshop.

Planning Framework: Five Themes Shaping Today's Research Environments

SERENDIPITY

Teams value flexibility but deeply miss an 'osmosis of knowledge' that comes from chance meetings in the work environment.

TRUST

Researchers want to create a culture of trust that clearly values collaborative research within an institution's reward structure.

RISK

Institutional leaders need to prioritize innovation and support exploration at the edges of research fields.

BALANCE

The new scientific workplace requires spaces, tools, and policies that enable both collaborative work and individual focus.

INCLUSIVITY

Organizations need to champion diverse, multi-disciplinary teams and focus on creating purposeful spaces to support research teams.

Beyond these themes, many workshop participants identified three fundamental, overarching concepts that influence the evolution of today's research environments. We think of these topics as fundamental to the overall subject matter.

Governance Structures

Putting in place the right incentives, management and institutional controls to enable teams to have success and secure information across parties.
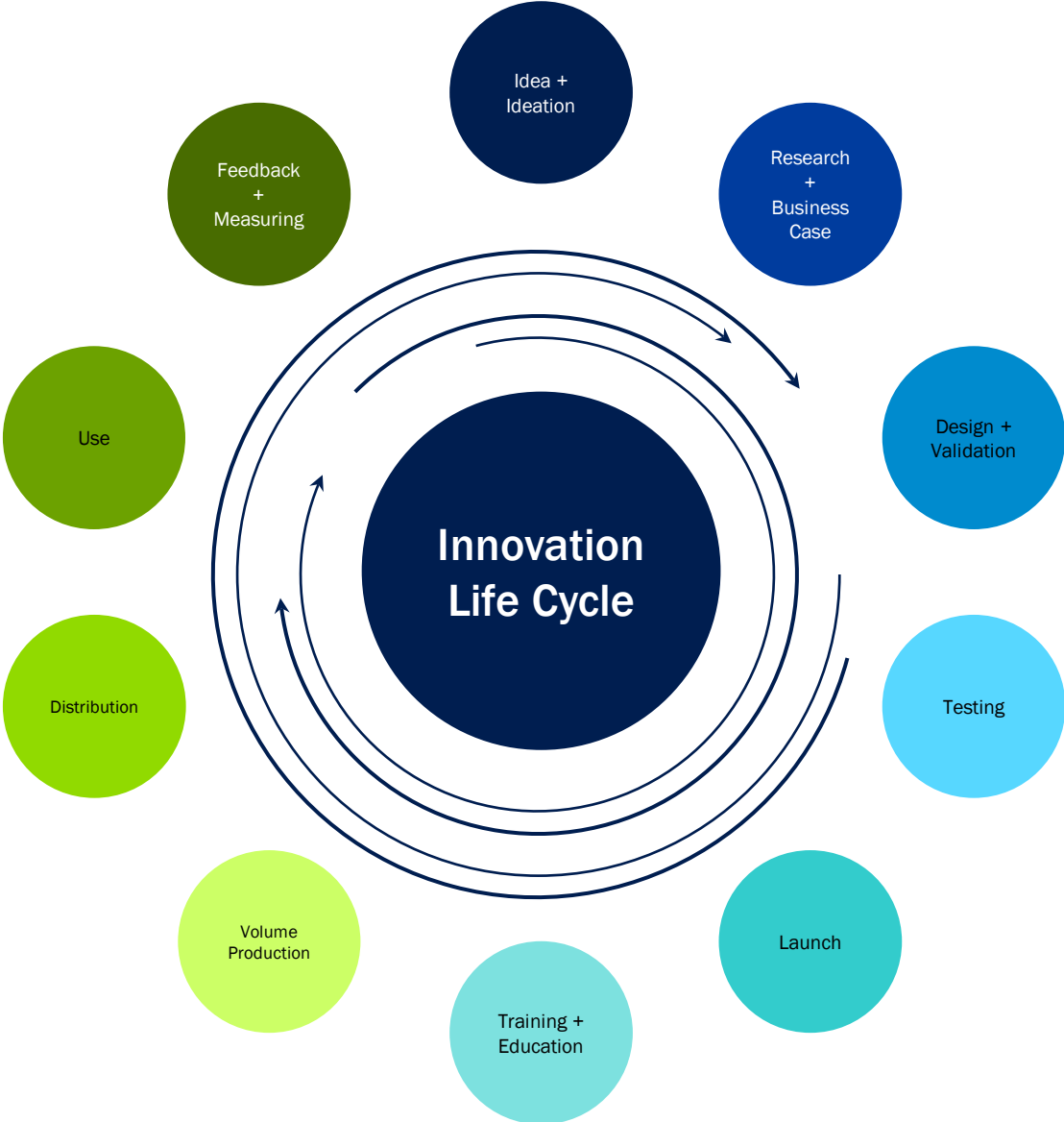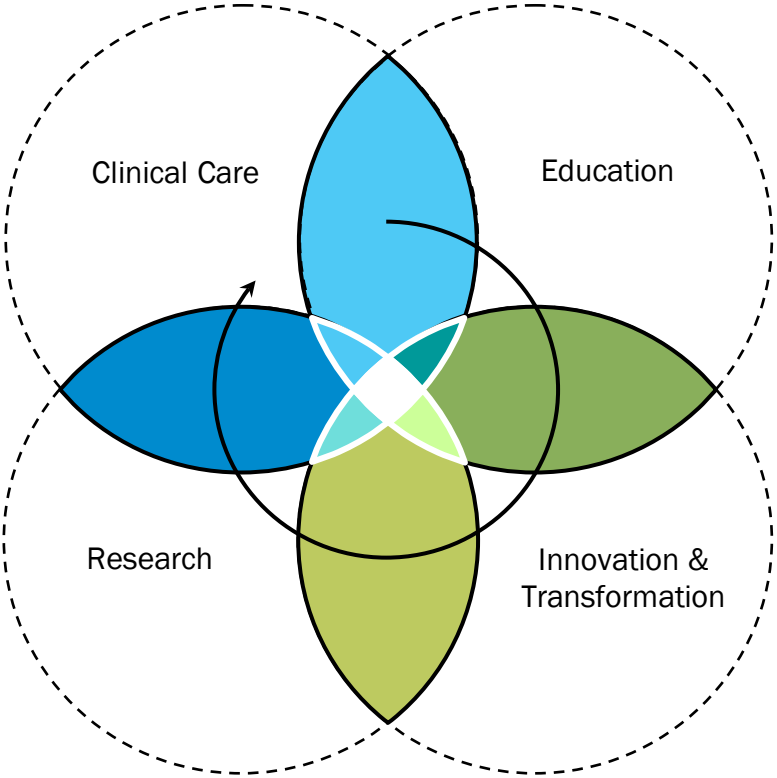
Convergence Research

Effective collaboration among different disciplines that is required to tackle the thorniest research projects.

Translational Science

Developing scientific research in partnership between university and industry partners often with a go-to-market strategy in mind.

The Translation Ask

What does it look like to develop and translate innovation as the world evolves and lines continue to blur?

Clinical Care

Education

Research

Innovation & Transformation

Idea + Ideation

Research + Business Case

Feedback + Measuring

Design + Validation

Use

Innovation Life Cycle

Testing

Distribution

Launch

Volume Production

Training + Education

Convergence Research

Where is the value for in-person vs. remote interaction in convergence research?