

ARMS 2024 CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Theme: The Knowledge Broker—Translating and disseminating research for greater impact

Title: Communicating impact: developing researcher capability

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Abstract:

Researchers often struggle to communicate their research's impact to different audiences effectively. To address this, the Research Training, UNSW Founders, and Industry and Innovation teams at UNSW Sydney have collaborated to develop the Research Making Impact (RMI) program.

RMI is a four-week program dedicated to developing researchers' ability to identify and articulate the impact their research could have on a national and global scale. More importantly, it gives them the skills, tools, and strategies to convince people that their work is essential. Over these four weeks, RMI challenges researchers to think about their research differently, provides opportunities to reflect and put theory into practice, and fosters cross-disciplinary interactions.

To achieve this, RMI draws on the strengths of expert facilitators and mentors to provide theoretical background and practical guidance to participants in shaping their impact stories. Impact Champions, people with a strong record of demonstrating impact, are involved in the final part to listen to and provide personalised feedback on the impact stories, allowing participants to fine-tune their stories.

Participant feedback has been highly positive, citing RMI as a *“very useful program that develops skills that are transferable”* and *“...build[s] confidence in framing and presenting complex research ideas...”*. This presentation will describe the program's design, execution, and lessons learned over its four-year delivery. It will be valuable to anyone interested in supporting researchers in adopting a research impact mindset and exploring how to deliver collaborative programs successfully.