



## **UAB Grand Challenge**

*To Make Life Better for People*

# **LEADING AND MANAGING COMPLEX CROSS-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS**

**Nathan Meier**  
**Director of Research Development**  
**Office of the Vice President for Research**

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# APPROACHING CROSS-DISCIPLINARITY



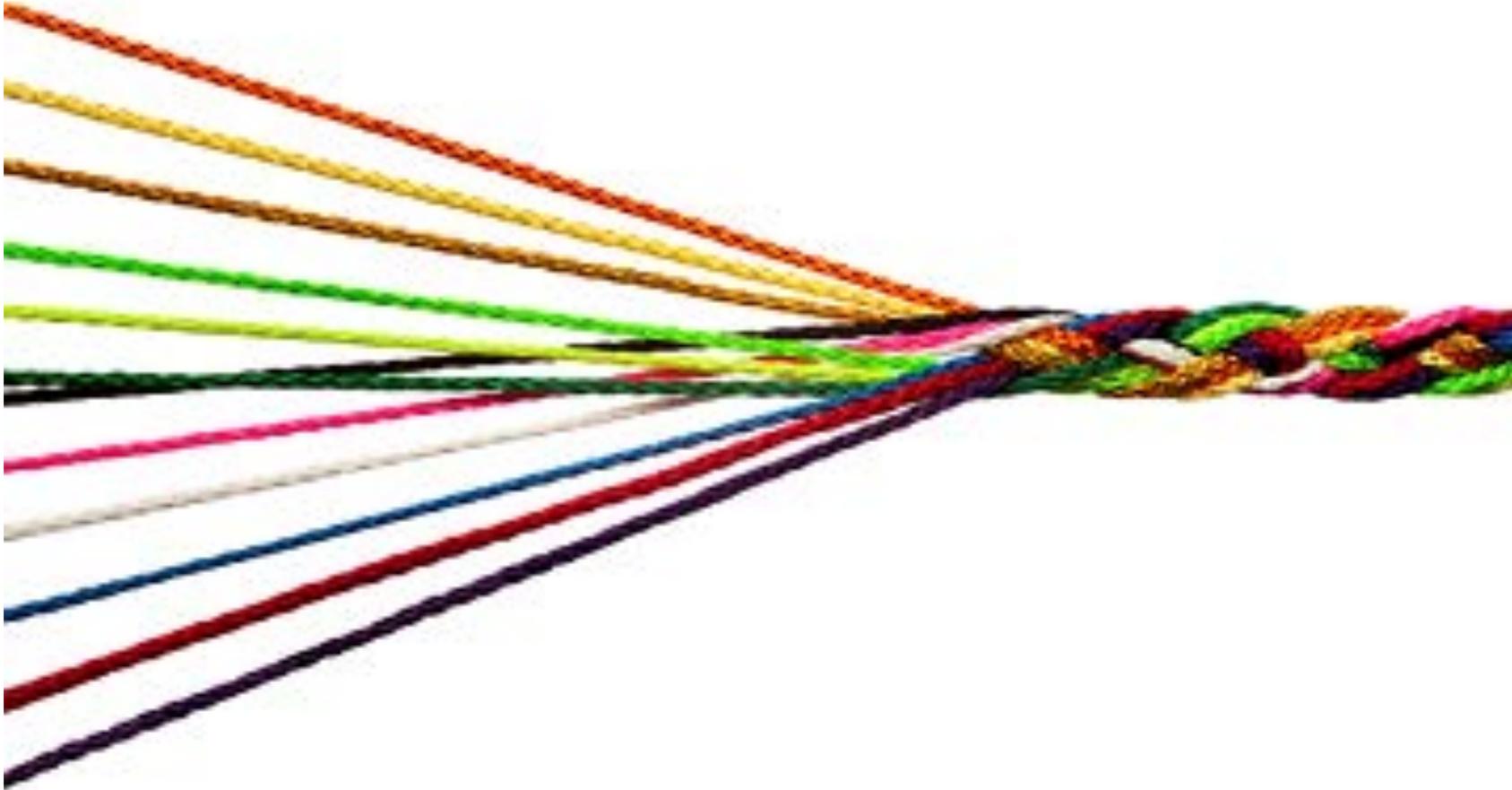
# THINKING LIKE ARTISTOTLE(?)

“There are wholes, the behaviour of which is not determined by that of their individual elements, but where the part-processes are themselves determined by the intrinsic nature of the whole.”

- George J. Klir, *Facets of Systems Science* (2013)



# GETTING AT CONVERGENCE



# HERDING LIONS



# TEN KEYS TO TEAM SUCCESS

- Leadership
- Vision
- Trust
- Self-awareness/emotional intelligence
- Mentoring

# TEN KEYS TO TEAM SUCCESS

- Team evolution and dynamics
- Communication
- Recognition and sharing success
- Conflict and disagreement
- Navigating/leveraging networks and systems

# SOME RESOURCES

- NRC report on *The Integration of the Humanities and Arts with Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Higher Education* (<http://www.informalscience.org/sites/default/files/24988.pdf>)
- NRC report on *Enhancing the Effectiveness of Team Science* (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK310387/>)
- Team Science Toolkit (<https://www.teamsciencetoolkit.cancer.gov>)
- Toolbox Dialogue Initiative (<http://toolbox-project.org/>)
- Collaboration Success Wizard (<http://hana.ics.uci.edu/wizard/>)

# SOME ADVICE

- Grand Challenge solutions must be forward thinking and feasible only through a cross-disciplinary approach
- The team must be strong, inclusive, engaged, and committed
- Strong team management strategies and well-developed communication plans are essential to success
- Attempts to proportionally distribute money will fail
- A full complement of disciplinary talent and experience are required to effect meaningful change – especially behavioral

\*\*\*The whole must be greater than the sum of its parts!\*\*\*

# THANK YOU!

Nathan Meier  
Director of Research Development  
Office of the Vice President for Research  
205-934-0934  
[nmeier@uab.edu](mailto:nmeier@uab.edu)