

RESEARCH LEADER OR ENTREPRENEUR?

Researcher Education and Development Conference 2015

The University of Sheffield

Friday 18th September 2015

Natacha Wilson Research and Education Consultant

Director Cambridge Insights Ltd

Approach

**“Navigating
the hairpin”**

**Research
Project
University of
Cambridge**

**Mentoring
Entrepreneurs**

**Start-up
experience**

**Research in
entrepreneurial
leadership
education**

Cambridge Insights

Becoming a Principal Investigator(PI): *the transition from doing to leading research*



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

1. Researching how researchers
 - prepare for the transition and
 - deal with the significant ‘leadership transition’ to becoming a Principal Investigator and gain research independence
2. Interviews with 46 PIs from the University of Cambridge and Leiden University – across disciplines
3. Research team

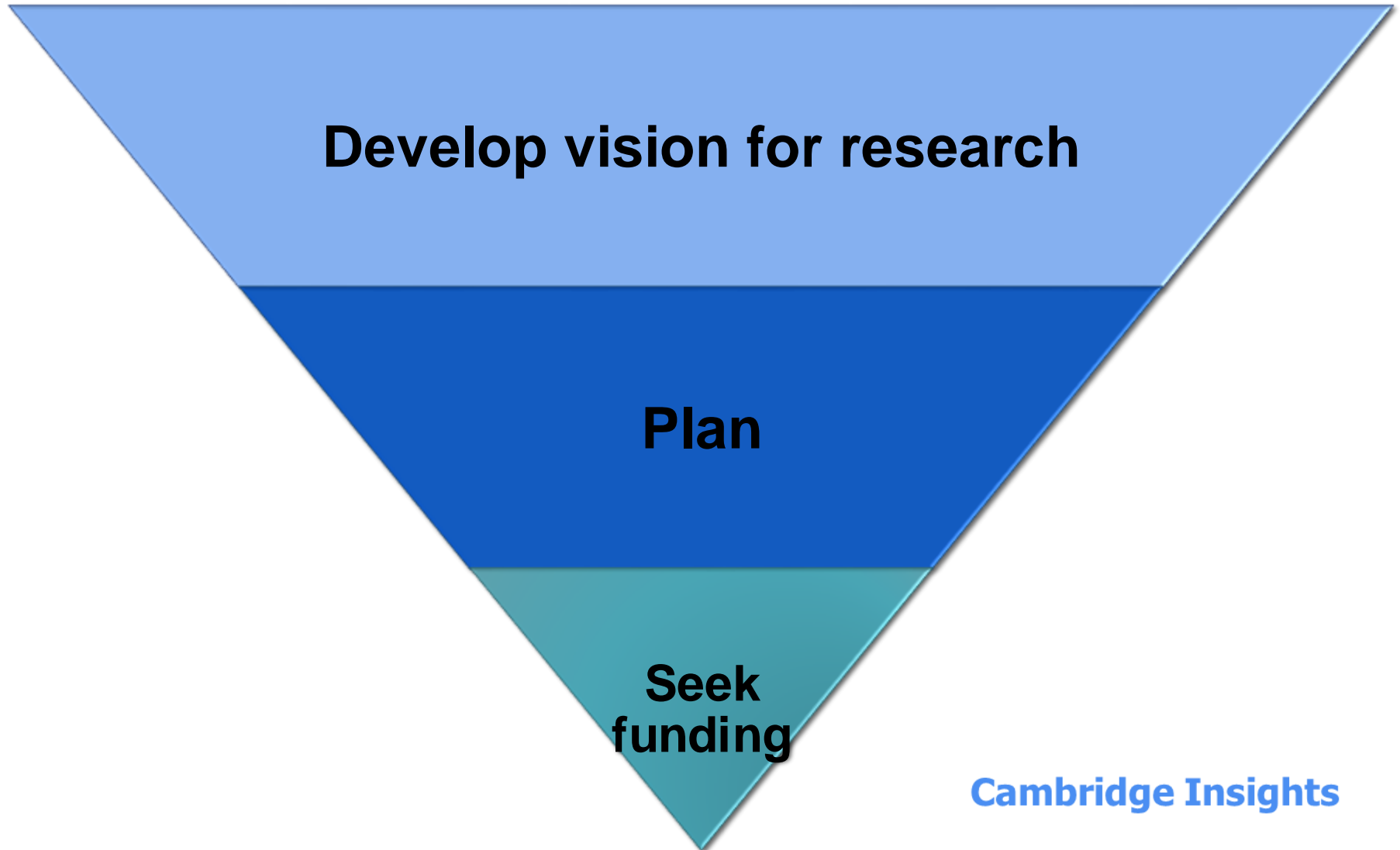
Dr Sharon Saunders - University of Cambridge

Professor Lynn McAlpine – University of Oxford

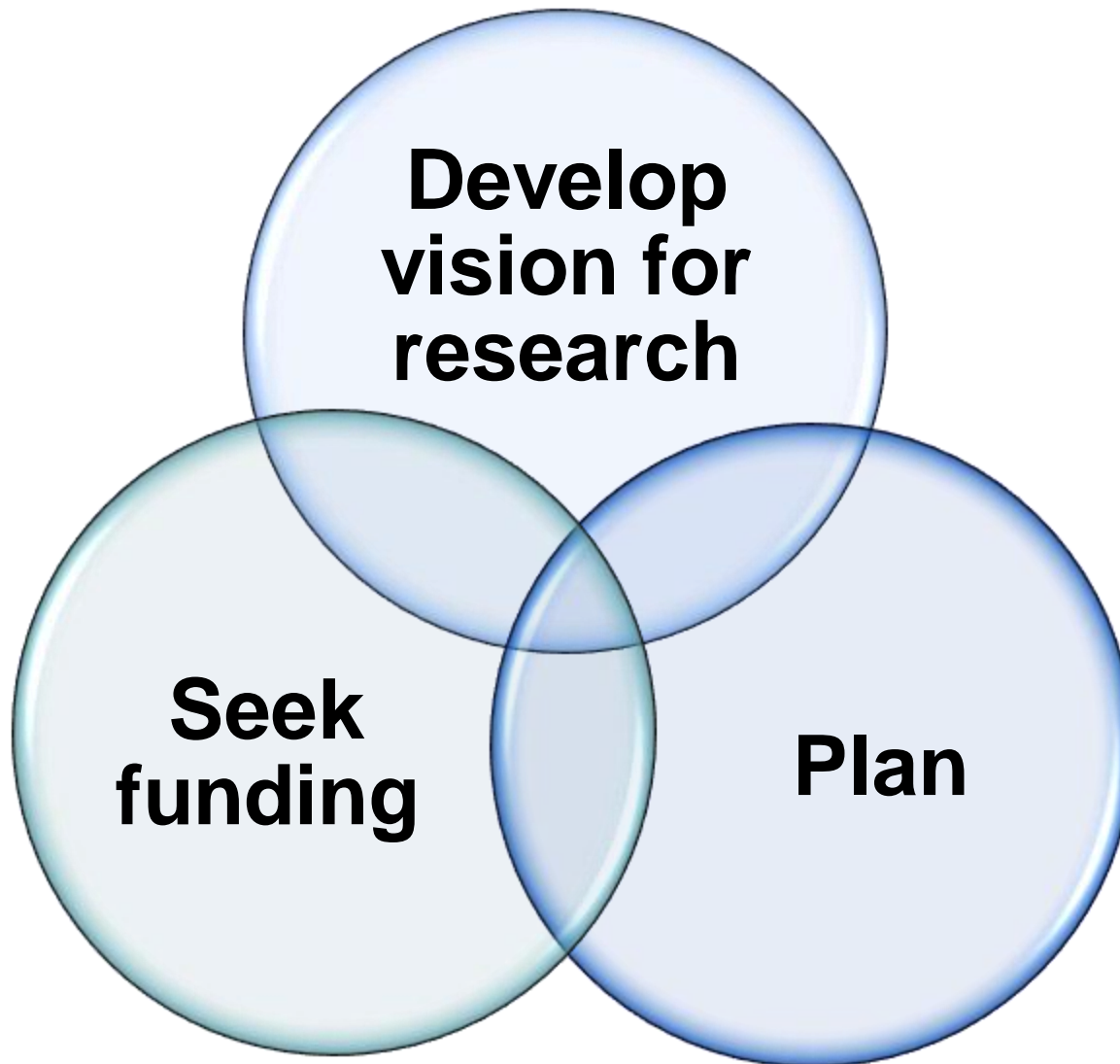
Natacha Wilson – Cambridge Insights

Cambridge Insights

Research leaders' focus (I)

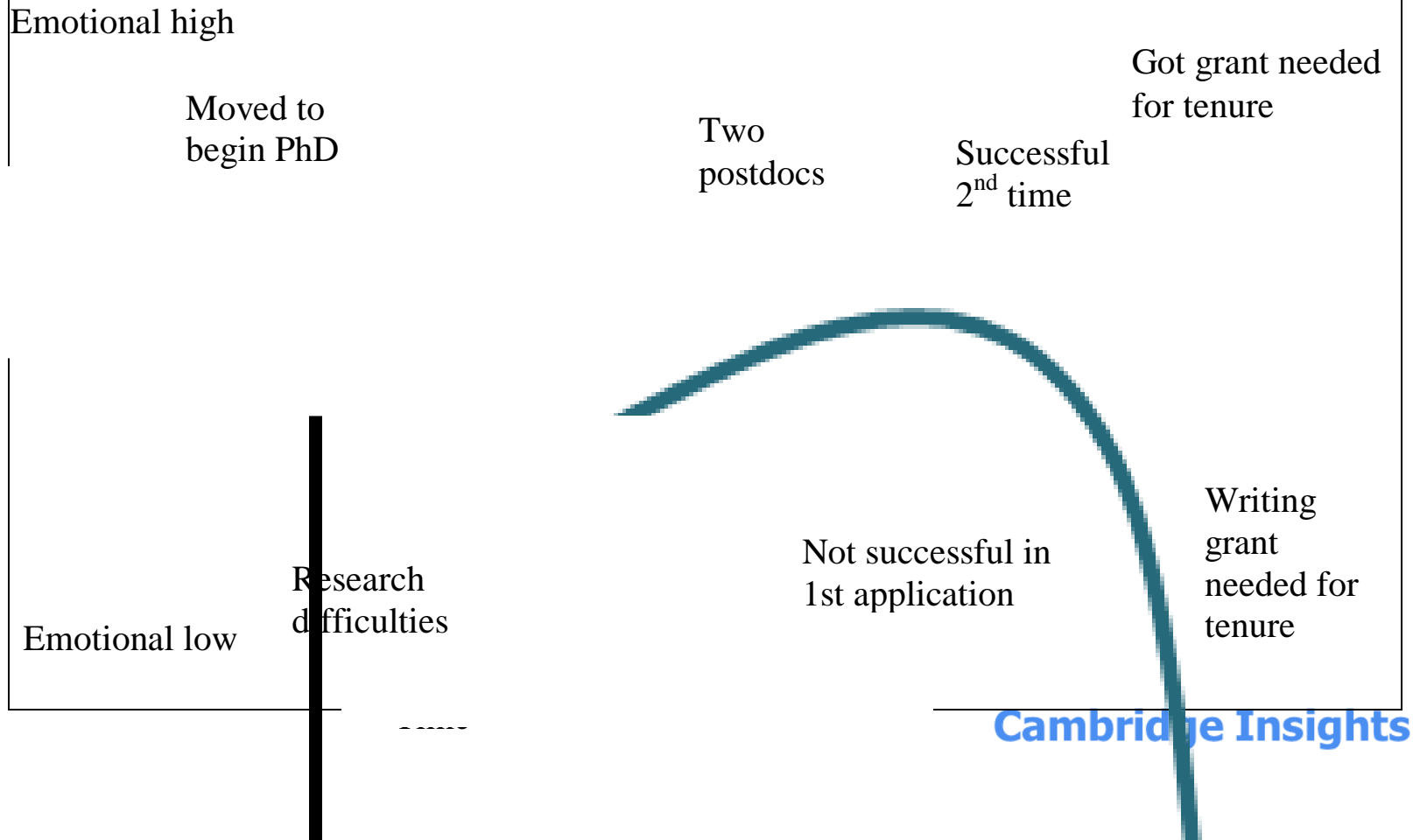


Research leaders' focus (II)



The journey

Figure 1. Romeo's journey plot (adapted from original to exclude personal details)



Successful research leaders and entrepreneurs

- Nature or nurture
- Luck factor
- Hard work
- Taking risks
- Other (traits and skills)
 - Resilience (overcoming challenges) and self-efficacy
 - Drive – willingness to succeed
 - Building networks
 - Understanding research environment

Entrepreneurial skills

Conceptual overlap between entrepreneurship and leadership:

- Cogliser and Brigham (2004) identified 4 common areas:
 - Vision
 - Influence
 - Leadership of innovative/creative people
 - Planning
- Fernald et al. (2005) identified key characteristics for entrepreneurial leadership
 - Vision
 - Problem-solving
 - Decision –making
 - Risk-taking
 - Strategic initiatives

Implications for Researcher Development

- Where does entrepreneurial (leadership) learning fit in? (RD focus vs add-on)
- When should this start? (PhD, Postdoc, PI)
- What should be covered?
- Where does this fit with the current RD provision?
- Which approach and methods should be offered to develop entrepreneurship skills?
- How do we evaluate this?

Thank you

Feedback and questions to

natacha.wilson@cambridgeinsights.co.uk

sharon.saunders@admin.cam.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Insights