

Experiences of Open Access in the not-for-profit sector

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Open Access Week

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Care Alliance Ireland

- Umbrella Organisation- 100 members
- Established in 1995
- Focus on “macro advocacy” for Family Carers and those providing support to them
 - Research
 - Policy work
 - Representation at State level
 - Communication
 - Sharing of resources
 - National Carers Week

Family Caring in Ireland

- Family Carer:

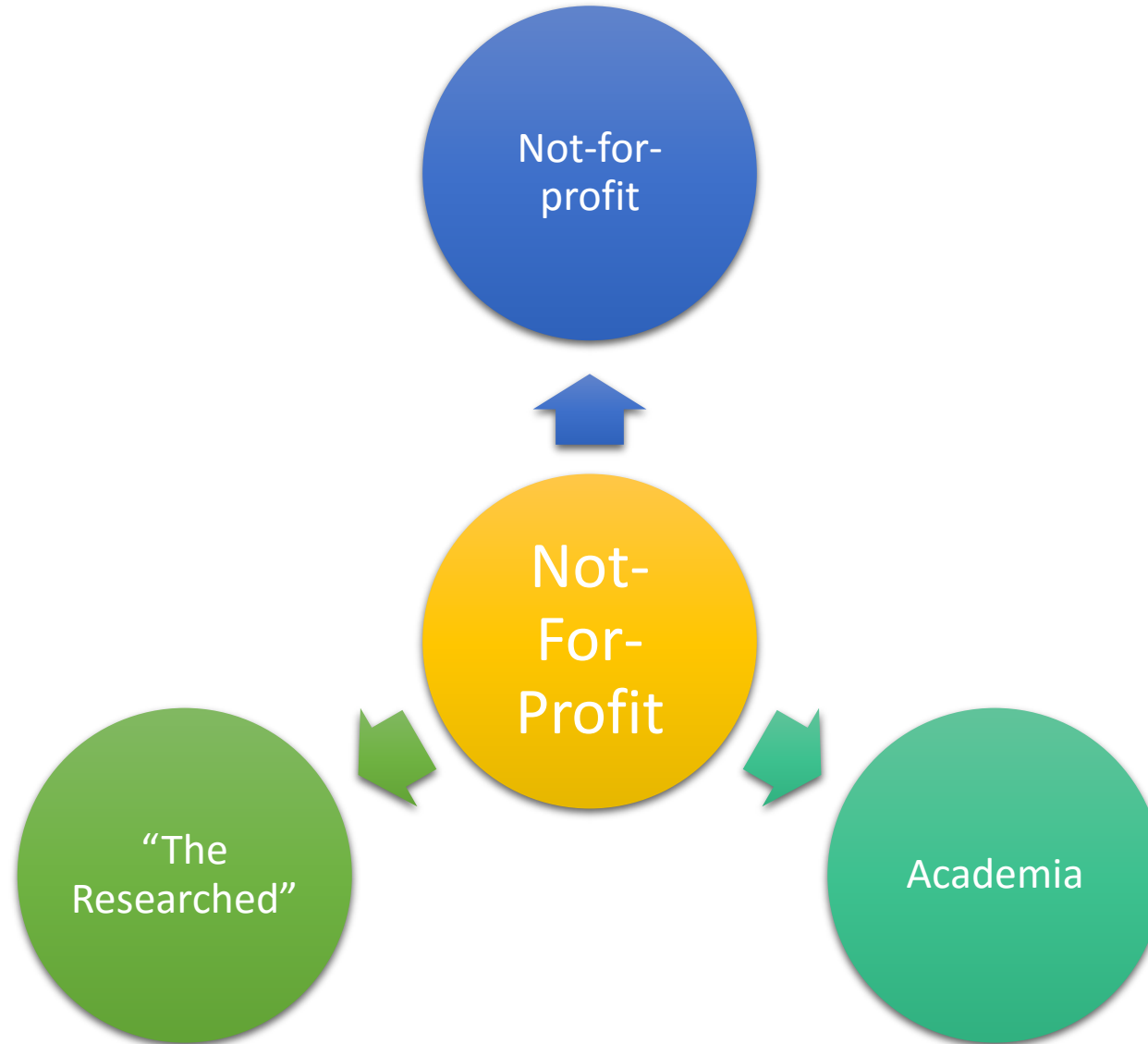
"someone who provides regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member, with a long term illness, health problem or disability." Census 2011

- 187,000 Family Carers in Ireland
- 4,228 under 14
- Provide over 6 million hours of care per week- upwards of €4billion worth of care every year

Family Carers & Health

- Less likely to report themselves in good health
- High levels of stress, emotional strain, social isolation (Care Alliance 2008; Carers Association & Irish College of Psychiatrists, 2009)
- High blood pressure, tiredness, back problems, arthritis (Carer Alliance Ireland, 2009)
- More likely to binge drink, smoke, etc (Hoffman, G.J. & Mendez-Luck, 2011)

“Open For Collaboration”



Not-For-Profit + Not-For-Profit

Benefits

- Mutual shared goal-
USUALLY
- Understanding of funding concerns etc.
- Different angles on same information

Challenges

- Competition- healthy & unhealthy
- “Chasing funding” can become overwhelming
- Recent “scandals”

Not-For-Profit + Academia

Benefits

- Access to resources
- Opportunity to set/ impact agenda for research
- Government like it/ may carry more “weight”

Challenges

- “Ivory tower” still exists in some sectors
- “Publish or perish”
- NFP seen as gatekeepers and providers of “subjects”

Not-For-Profit + “The Researched”

Benefits

- Inclusive research- best practice
- Less paternalistic
- Grounded

Challenges

- Time-intensive
- Those being researched have massive commitments

Care Alliance & Open Access

- Ensure all our research documents are freely available
- Budget for research to be added to OA journals
- Encourage comment from Family Carers themselves- research has to be accessible
- "Plain English" research reports

Some statistics...

- Website reach:
 - 58,000 downloads (2014)
 - 16,715 visitors (2014)
 - Over 3000 downloads of “Family Caring in Ireland” overview report (2013-2014)
 - ~500 downloads in 5 days of “Defining Carers” discussion paper

Thank you

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