Formulating a Research Question and Study Design

1. Decide on an area of inquiry:
   a. What is it that I do? (Teach, Clinical work)
   b. What interests me about what I do? (What do I want to know? What am I curious about? What puzzles me?)
   c. With whom might I want to collaborate? (Who else shares my interest? Who has expertise that I don’t have? Who will help me obtain resources?)

2. First, frame your interest as a Broad Question:

3. Try to focus your Question:
   Often we need to refine and/or focus our initial question to make it more doable. See if you can make your broad question more specific.

4. Critique your question:
   a. Is my question meaningful?
   b. What methods should I use to make answering this question most doable?
   c. What outcomes should I expect to produce to best present my answer to others?