

Ecological Perspectives on Research Translation

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Theme: Intervention Design to Contextual Relevance

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TRIPLL

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON PAIN IN LATER LIFE

T2 Research Translation

- ◆ Bringing research evidence to practice
- ◆ Recognizing that bridges go both ways
- ◆ “Contextualizing” research with stakeholder input



TRIPLL is an Edward R. Roybal Centers

13 Centers nation-wide

Funded by the National Institute on Aging Division of Behavioral and Social Research

Develop and pilot innovative ideas for translation of basic behavioral and social research findings that will improve the quality of life for older adults and improve the capacity of social institutions to adapt to societal aging

Aims of the Cornell Roybal Center (1993-present)


- ◇ Create a “living laboratory” for research that improves the lives of older adults
- ◇ Develop and implement the highest quality intervention research possible to inform programs and practices affecting the lives of older adults in New York (city and state)
 - ◇ Translational research on social integration and older adults
 - ◇ Transition in 2009 to the management of chronic pain among older adults (TRIPLL)
 - ◇ Transition in 2014 to a focus on behavior change research on pain management
 - ◇ Committed to a modified “action research” paradigm to provide greater local context for the development of randomized controlled trials

Core Concepts from the Action Research Tradition That Add Context to Intervention Research

- ◆ Mutual and equal participation by the community and the researcher in planning
- ◆ Shared use and ownership of knowledge produced by the research
- ◆ Commitment to equal power between community participants and the research team in research decisions
- ◆ Shared reflection and implementation of the generated knowledge



Three Institutional Partners and Their Stakeholders



Weill Cornell Medical College	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Care• Weill Clinical and Translational Science Center and community partners
Cornell -- Ithaca	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research and community partners• Cornell Research laboratories• NYS Cooperative Extension
Cornell Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer Interaction Design Laboratory• Health Tech Hub• Small Data Lab

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- Small Data Lab

T2 Translational Research Activities Initiated from 2003-2009

- ◆ Surveyed community needs on an ongoing basis
- ◆ Educated *researchers and community agency directors and staff* about the importance of scientific research translation in the field of aging
 - ◆ Community educational events, e.g. researcher-community practitioner consensus conferences (Sabir et al., 2006, 2009)
 - ◆ Investigator recruitment and development program
- ◆ Maintained a research-ready network of sites where research could be conducted in partnership with community partners
 - ◆ Conducted studies in 35 separate senior centers
 - ◆ Collaborated with the NYC Department for the Aging and local providers (e.g. home delivered meals)

Activities of the Investigator Development Program

- (1) Recruit new researchers to translational research on aging and chronic pain
 - (1) Pilot grants
 - (2) Educational activities

- (2) Develop new research ideas
 - (1) Monthly investigator development meetings (work in progress seminars)
 - (2) Monitor pilot study progress

- (3) Pull together inter- and multi-disciplinary teams to develop pilot grants into larger research programs

Three Types of Pilot Studies

◆ Exploratory pilots

- ◆ Oral health among home-delivered meals recipients -- Simple survey resulted in permanent changes to case review for new clients

◆ “Proof of concept” mini-trials

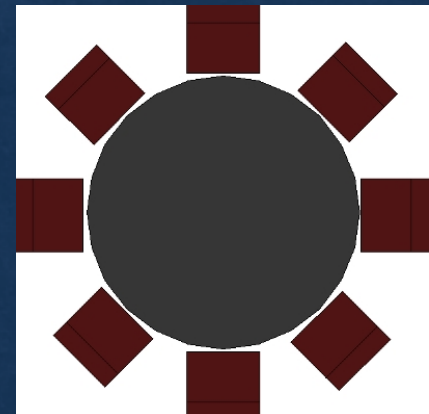
- ◆ PATH-PAIN – adapting a depression control trial for homebound older women who suffer from chronic pain

◆ Effectiveness studies (typically funded by additional funds)

- ◆ Adapting the K. Lorig Arthritis Self-Management Program to diverse senior centers

TRIPLL Resources

- ◆ Monthly Work in Progress Seminars (WIP) and Pilot quarterly “check-ups”
 - ◆ Feedback on grant proposals and manuscripts
 - ◆ Help with design and methods
 - ◆ Matchmaking with potential collaborators in the field
- ◆ Ongoing research-to-practice webinar series inviting researchers and practitioners
- ◆ Email newsletter and funding opportunities
- ◆ Participant pools in New York City and Ithaca



Lesson Learned: Stakeholders are Very Busy

- ◆ How much involvement do busy stakeholders want?
 - ◆ “Equitable” versus “equal” partnership
- ◆ Our experience: Many agency heads prefer the roles and responsibilities approach of equitable partnership

Lesson Learned:

Center-based Approaches are Critical

- ◆ Centers can build and maintain long-term partnerships with the community
 - ◆ Builds trust in a long-term organization that is sustained through partnerships between senior investigators and senior agency heads
 - ◆ More junior investigators can be involved in projects at their “comfort level”

Lesson Learned:

Collaborate with Government/Private Funders

- ◆ Local government or funder support makes a program “permanent”
- ◆ State-level departments and private funders are also important partners:
 - ◆ NY Elder Abuse Coalition, funded by New York State
 - ◆ Citymeals: private foundation that made Roybal-developed programs permanent parts of the home-delivered meals program

Some Final Thoughts

- ◆ A center-based approach has worked for us
 - ◆ Facilitated multi-disciplinary approaches
 - ◆ Linked to other resources for training investigators
 - ◆ Provided resources for engaging the communities with which we work

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