Tools and Tough Questions for Translational Research

Parent Education In-Service
Ithaca, NY
January 25, 2012

Jennifer Sarah Tiffany, PhD
Why Translational Research?

- There is a need for systematic translation of research findings into the development of innovative interventions that ultimately improve real-world practices and from interventions and practices back to basic research.
- It often takes too long to move basic research discoveries into practice where they can be useful (average of 17 years for research evidence to reach clinical practice).
- Much basic research never makes it into practical use at all!
BCTR’s Working Definition of Translational Research

Translational research is the systematic movement of research findings into the development of innovative interventions, practices and policies that may ultimately improve health and well-being, and also the use of knowledge derived from interventions, practices, and policies to inform research.
Feedback in Translational Research

“The stages of translational research work in two directions—to continuously develop and reevaluate an intervention across diverse settings and populations, and to proactively integrate data from real-world settings into the inception, design, and development of new basic and applied research studies....The feedback loops inherent in the translational research process allow research to inform practice and practice to inform research....” – Patricia Grady (2010)
Getting our Minds around Translational Research:

Sequence of Steps in TR
Practice Informing Research
Model Applied to Parent Education
Current Experience in CCE
Getting our Minds around Translational Research:

Sequence of Steps
Getting our Minds around Translational Research:

Practice ➔ Research
Getting our Minds around Translational Research:

In Parent Education
Getting our Minds around Translational Research:

Current Experience
Translational Research Steps

- Issue identification
- Basic research (identify risk and protective factors)
- Program development
- Implementation effectiveness trials (real-life variation in contexts where program is offered)
- Efficacy trials (optimum conditions of program implementation and participation)
- Effectiveness trials (real-life variation in participants)
- Large-scale dissemination of program (“scaling up”)
- Opportunities for feedback from practice to research (“bridges”) at nearly every turn.
Quality Translational Research:

1. Addresses a significant social problem
2. Has a clearly articulated theoretical basis
3. Is grounded in basic research
4. Has a carefully constructed intervention
5. Uses a randomized, controlled design
6. Has a clear dissemination plan
7. Is bi-directional (research to practice, practice to research)
College of Human Ecology Approach to Translational Research:

- Accelerate movement of findings from research to practice
- Foster close consultation with eventual users
- Emphasize work across disciplines
- Study implementation process (how to improve movement of research into practice)
- Support evidence-based practice and programming
- Foster active participation by communities and practitioners in developing research agendas
Translational Research Resources in CHE:

→ Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research
→ Research Navigators Training
→ Cornell Office for Research on Evaluation
Mission of the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research (BCTR)

To strengthen and speed the connection between cutting-edge research and the design, evaluation, and implementation of programs and policies that enhance human development, health, and well being.
Main Activities of the BCTR

- THINK TANK FOR INNOVATION
- INVESTIGATOR TRAINING
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION
- EXTENSIVE RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES
- STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
## BCTR Projects & Programs

(Some large, some small)

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Research Navigators

Hold the dates: April 17-19, 2012

Check out on-line resources:
Tools for Translational Research

http://www.human.cornell.edu/outreach/Tools.cfm
Cornell Office for Research on Evaluation

https://core.human.cornell.edu/
Quotes from Faculty and CCE Educators working on *Cooking Together for Family Meals (CTFM)*

“All of our educators planning and implementing diverse programs in our communities could benefit greatly from learning this process!”

“The connection with [CORE] has had a major impact, not only on the planning and evaluation of the program itself, but on our ways of thinking about evaluation, research and systems thinking.”

“We plan to bring this methodology into a grant proposal revision and extend it to team members from other universities and states.”
The “Systems Evaluation Protocol”

CCE STEM Cohort
for testing “mySEP” self-guided option

New Application Deadline
January 31

Monica Hargraves  mjh51@cornell.edu
Contact information:

jst5@cornell.edu (best)

607-255-1942 or 607-254-5360
Thank you!