

13th Annual Conference on the Science of D&I

Areas of Focus

Behavioral Health

- Studies of novel strategies for de-implementation of unproven or outdated behavioral health interventions
- Innovative research approaches and platforms, including the integration of new technologies, data science, predictive analytics, and machine learning, to promote accessibility, adoption, uptake, implementation, sustainability, and scale up of evidence-based practices in behavioral health
- Studies of new, multi-level implementation strategies for behavioral health that ensure engagement of multiple and key stakeholders including patients, communities, decision-makers, providers, and healthcare organizations
- Studies of implementation designs that address the multi-dimensional complexities in behavioral health including contextual factors, multifaceted interventions, adaptive approaches, and patient comorbidities
- Innovative implementation studies designed to improve behavioral health outcomes among diverse, vulnerable, and underserved populations in the US and around the globe

Building the Future of D&I Science: Training, Infrastructure, and Emerging Research Areas

- Studies on innovative approaches for building capacity to train novice, intermediate, and advanced D&I researchers, practitioners, and intermediaries
- Studies on novel approaches for developing, maintaining, and sustaining research-practice partnerships
- Studies on novel data sources and analytic approaches for measuring implementation strategies using existing data sources (e.g., electronic health records)
- Studies on measuring, monitoring and analyzing implementation strategies over the course of an implementation trial with an eye towards mechanisms
- Studies of predictors, mediators, and strategies for de-implementation of ineffective and low-value practices
- Studies on ethical considerations and approaches for data sharing of implementation trials
- Studies of measurement, data collection, and analyses of implementation costs

Clinical Care Settings: Patient-Level Interventions

- Studies that develop and/or test implementation strategies that support D&I of effective patient-level interventions, especially those assessing which strategies work best with different contexts, patient groups, and diseases. Particular attention to the gray area between implementation strategies and the evidence-based practice is of interest.
- Studies that develop and/or test approaches to adapt patient-level interventions and/or implementation strategies to diverse contexts, and innovative methods for patients, consumers, and stakeholders throughout the adaptation process
- Studies that develop and/or test patient-facing implementation strategies. These strategies focus on ways to better engage patients in evidence-based practices and increase demand for them.
- Studies that develop and/or test health information technology-based patient-level interventions, and optimal strategies for implementing them; for example, mHealth, eHealth, patient portals, shared decision-making tools, and data visualization methods for patient-facing health information
- Innovative implementation studies designed to improve evidence-based practice implementation and health outcomes among diverse, vulnerable, or underserved patients who may receive care inequitably

Clinical Care Settings: System-Level Interventions

- Understanding how contextual health system facilitators and barriers affect implementation of interventions or de-implementation of ineffective or unproven practices.
- Studies informing health system leadership on how to make evidence-based decisions on selecting what interventions to implement, how to conduct the implementation, and whether the implementation was successful and sustainable; including timely economic evaluations of health system implementation activities.
- Studies examining how to efficiently adapt clinical practice in response to new evidence or guidelines.
- Studies examining the dynamics of change, including rapid response to crises such as pandemics, during implementation of evidence-based interventions within health systems.
- Understanding how investments in health system infrastructure such as workforce, data capacity, information sharing, choice architecture, patient engagement and culture can support implementation of evidence.
- Studies that develop and/or test digital technology or solutions supporting evidenced-based care delivery and optimal strategies for implementing them; for example, clinical decision support (CDS), integrating data from patient-generated health data tools (e.g., mHealth, eHealth, patient portals), shared decision-making, and data visualization methods for clinician-facing health information)

Global Dissemination & Implementation Science

- Strengthening understanding of the important role of context and mechanisms, mediators, and moderators influencing the effectiveness of implementation strategies in LMIC community and health systems.
- Adapting or developing dissemination or implementation research frameworks and models and developing theory informed implementation strategies for diverse global settings
- Innovative designs (MOST, SMART, Stepped Wedge etc.) and methods for measurement of implementation outcomes and determinants in a variety of global settings
- Understanding scale up and sustainability in dissemination and implementation research and opportunities for reverse innovation: learning from resource constrained settings
- Approaches to strengthening health system capacity and enhancing community/practitioner participation in implementation research
- Implementation research applied to the COVID pandemic response in LMIC settings, vulnerable populations or humanitarian contexts

Health Policy Dissemination & Implementation Science

- Studies of the implementation, sustainment, and/or de-implementation of local, state, or national public or private policies— including, but not limited to, legislation, administrative rules, practice guidelines promulgated by major professional societies, and policies implemented in health care delivery systems.
- Studies of dissemination strategies that aim to promote the use of research evidence in public policy and health care policy. Formative studies that can inform the design of policy dissemination strategies are also of interest.
- Rigorous evaluations of the implementation outcomes of policies—including de-implementation of practices that are not evidence-based, unintended consequences of policy implementation, and economic dimensions (e.g., return on investment)
- Studies exploring adaptation in policy implementation across different contexts—such as low-resourced environments and organizations that serve vulnerable populations
- Development of methods and measures focused on policy dissemination and implementation, including studies assessing the applicability and adaptability of clinical dissemination and implementation strategies for policy contexts.

- Studies assessing the effect of politics and broad socio-cultural forces on health policy development, with a focus on how these forces influence the extent to which policies are aligned with research evidence

Models, Measures, and Methods

- Measures and methods to capture the dynamic evolution of interventions across time and context
- Studies demonstrating the application of simulation and statistical modeling techniques to implementation research questions
- Empirical tests of integrative conceptual models or theories of (de)implementation processes
- Research on dissemination or implementation methods or measurement that attempt to generalize across clinical conditions and settings
- Measures, methods, or models to predict or explain sustainability of implemented practices
- Studies that demonstrate rigorous application of mixed methods approaches (i.e., integration of qualitative and quantitative methods)

Prevention and Public Health

- Address barriers to preventive health services and identify potential strategies to dealing with COVID-19, and the implications for dissemination and implementation science.
- Advance implementation designs that address complexities and contextual factors in prevention and public health through the use of multi-level and multifaceted interventions
- Methods to study the dissemination, scale-up, and sustainability of evidence-based preventive interventions in populations, especially in underserved populations.
- Develop and test transformative implementation strategies (e.g., telehealth technologies for health care delivery, education, and support) to improve the accessibility, adoption, and implementation of evidence-based practices in prevention and public health, particularly in underserved community settings.
- Improve implementation strategies that ensure engagement of patients, decision-makers, healthcare organizations, and other key stakeholders in prevention and public health programs.

Promoting Health Equity and Eliminating Disparities

- Strategies to adapt existing evidence-based interventions to be culturally appropriate while maintaining fidelity
- Strategies to implement evidence-based practices and guideline-concordant care in low-resource healthcare settings
- Big data and health information technology approaches to enhance implementation of and engagement with evidence-based interventions and practices for disadvantaged populations
- Community, system or population level implementation to promote health equity (e.g., within health care systems, education systems, community-wide environmental interventions, and policy changes), including addressing barriers and facilitators of implementation (e.g., engagement and adaptation, organizational and system-level factors)
- Sustainability within settings and systems to promote health equity and eliminate disparities
- Dissemination and implementation of evidence-based COVID-19 mitigation strategies or interventions to ameliorate the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health of vulnerable populations.