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16th Annual Conference on the Science of D&I

Areas of Focus

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Note: If your abstract deals with COVID-19, please submit to the track that is most relevant rather than defaulting to the public health track (e.g., if the abstract is about COVID disparities, submit to disparities).

Behavioral Health

- Studies of implementation strategies for novel, evidence-based digital mental health interventions that improve uptake, engagement, and sustainment
- Innovative research approaches and platforms, including data science, geospatial analysis tools, 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 that ensure engagement of multiple and key partners including care recipients, peer support specialists, communities, decision-makers, providers, payors, and healthcare organizations in implementing or sustaining behavioral health evidence-based practices
- Innovative equity-focused implementation studies designed to improve behavioral health outcomes of underserved individuals in rural communities and diverse settings including criminal justice, child welfare, residential treatment, and juvenile justice settings
- Implementation studies focused on integrating behavioral health into primary care settings using novel approaches or implementation strategies.
- Implementation studies examining outer context and social or structural determinants of health related to implementing interventions to address adolescent mental health, suicide, and opioid and methamphetamine use.
- Studies exploring implementation strategies to promote measurement-based care in diverse settings like schools, community mental health and primary care

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

- Studies on innovative approaches to building capacity for diverse partners with novice, intermediate, and advanced understanding of dissemination and implementation science. We are especially interested in approaches that directly target building a more diverse and equitable workforce of implementation scientists, practitioners, intermediaries, and other relevant partners.
- Studies that highlight efficient platforms (e.g., practice-based research networks, implementation meta-laboratories), data sources (e.g., electronic health records), and analytic techniques for conducting dissemination and implementation research
- Studies that leverage systematic approaches for designing and evaluating dissemination and implementation strategies that are adaptive or are tailored to meet the needs of diverse individuals, organizations, systems, etc.
- Studies that demonstrate rigorous and pragmatic approaches to conceptualizing, measuring, and establishing mechanisms through which implementation strategies affect implementation, de-implementation, and/or health outcomes
- Studies centering equitable implementation, ethical considerations, and/or explore positive and negative unintended consequences of implementation.
- Studies focused on the intersection of new and emerging methodological areas and implementation (e.g., informatics, AI/machine learning, data science, learning health systems) and/or draw deeply from established fields, theories, and methods that are currently underutilized in dissemination and implementation science
- Studies that present novel or under-utilized approaches to synthesizing evidence across dissemination and implementation science (e.g., living meta-analyses, realist reviews, etc.)

- Conceptual and empirical work that constructively critique and provide extensions or alternatives to prevailing frameworks, methods, research designs, and approaches in dissemination and implementation science

Clinical Care Settings: Patient-Level Interventions

- Studies that develop and/or test implementation strategies that support D&I of effective patient-level interventions (including bundles of multiple evidence-based 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 attend to the needs and perspectives of diverse, vulnerable, underserved, and/or marginalized groups are of particular interest.
- 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 (e.g., nudges, education, patient navigation). Studies that attend to the needs and perspectives of diverse, vulnerable, underserved, and/or marginalized groups are of particular interest.
- 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. Studies that attend to the needs and perspectives of diverse, vulnerable, underserved, and/or marginalized groups are of particular interest.
- Studies that integrate perspectives patients and/or community stakeholders into research design, intervention development, and/or selection and tailoring of implementation strategies.

Clinical Care Settings: System-Level Interventions

- Understanding how multi-level factors (e.g., facilitators and barriers) within the healthcare delivery system affect implementation or de-implementation of interventions.
- Studies that address organizational infrastructure and characteristics (such as culture, workforce, capacity, interdisciplinary teams, and stakeholder engagement mechanisms) to support implementation of evidence.
- Studies informing health system leadership, clinicians, and staff 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 adopt and adapt clinical practice across multiple levels of the healthcare system in response to new evidence or guidelines.
- Studies examining the dynamics of change, including rapid response to an unexpected and/or time-sensitive event (e.g., pandemic, natural disaster, or policy change), during implementation of evidence-based interventions within health systems.
- Learning health system or embedded health care research at the system level
- Studies that develop and/or test digital technology or solutions supporting evidence-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

- Adapting or creating measures and instruments applicable in diverse global settings
- Developing and testing implementation strategies to achieve implementation and clinical outcomes tailored to specific global contexts and settings.
- Developing and testing approaches for scale up and sustainability of implementation strategies and opportunities for reciprocal learning from resource constrained settings
- Research exploring the integration of implementation science with improvement science, systems science, design thinking or policy science.
- Exploring methods for engaging leaders, policymakers and/or communities and the ethics, equity or power issues influencing stakeholder involvement.
- Application of implementation research to address climate change, humanitarian crises, war and conflict and needs of vulnerable populations in global settings

Health Policy Dissemination & Implementation Science

- Formative studies of policy actors critical to Big P (e.g., federal, state, regional county, city laws, regulations) and little p (e.g., organizational policy, practice guidelines promulgated by major professional societies) health policy dissemination and implementation processes. Studies assessing the roles, responsibilities, and behaviors of diverse actors involved in the policymaking, disseminating, or implementation processes. Studies that investigate multi-level, cross-context factors that influence policy actors' evidence use behaviors.
- Studies that test the utility or effectiveness of dissemination strategies for their ability to reduce the research to policy gap, enhance the use of evidence in the policymaking process, or deliver evidence to invested policy actors and those impacted by implemented policies (e.g., citizens, members/clients of a health system or organization).
- Studies that assess the process of evidence-informed policy implementation. Studies that assess the implementation, sustainment, de-implementation, and/or unintended consequences (e.g., economic impact, anti-racist or equity implications) of policy. Studies should have a clear dissemination or implementation science approach.
- Studies that test the utility or effectiveness of implementation strategies for their ability to reduce the research to policy gap or enhance the implementation success of an evidence-informed health policy. Studies that test implementation strategies for their utility in de-implementing harmful or outdated health policies.
- Studies exploring policy-relevant adaptations in dissemination or implementation efforts and across diverse contexts—such as low-resourced environments and organizations that serve low-income and/or minoritized communities. This can include studies assessing the influence of politics, polity structures, and socio-political forces on evidence-informed policy development and implementation. Studies about non-health policies should explain how the focal policy relates to healthcare access, quality, or outcomes (i.e., clearly explain the application of a Health in All policy approach).
- Methodological or conceptual studies that advance the science of policy D&I, including development of policy-relevant: frameworks, implementation outcomes, implementation strategies, data collection, analytic methods, and partnership/collaboration building approaches for policy implementation efforts.

Models, Measures, and Methods

- Demonstrations of new or adapted models, measures, or methods for dissemination and implementation research
- Application of models, measures, or methods to capture: the dynamic evolution of interventions across time and context; multisectoral approaches to dissemination and implementation; sustainability of implemented practices; or generalizability across clinical conditions and settings

- Studies that demonstrate simulation and statistical modeling approaches to answer implementation research questions
- Studies that demonstrate innovative mixed methods approaches (i.e., integration of qualitative and quantitative methods)
- Empirical tests of integrative conceptual models or theories of (de)implementation processes

Prevention and Public Health

- Dynamic implementation of public health interventions and policies in the context of significant public health issues.
- Advance implementation strategies and/or designs to address structural, multilevel and/or multisectoral factors in prevention/public health settings or promote the uptake of prevention/public health interventions to advance health equity.
- Methods to promote the engagement of communities and multi-sectoral partners in the design, implementation, dissemination, scale-up, and sustainability of evidence-based prevention and mitigation interventions in underserved, rural, and low-resource settings.
- Develop and test transformative implementation strategies to improve the reach, accessibility, adoption or adaptation, and implementation of evidence-based practices for prevention, mitigation, and public health.
- Improve public health communication strategies to enhance adoption of healthy behaviors/environments and address misinformation (e.g., vaccine hesitancy, COVID-19 preventive behaviors).

Promoting Health Equity and Eliminating Disparities

- Strategies to adapt 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
- 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, including structural racism and discrimination or other structural factors
- Sustainability within settings and systems to promote health equity and eliminate disparities