

15th Annual Conference on the Science of D&I

Areas of Focus

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-across diverse health care settings
- Innovative research approaches and platforms, including 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 that ensure engagement of multiple and key stakeholders including care recipients, communities, decision-makers, providers, payors, and healthcare organizations in implementing or sustaining behavioral health evidence-based practices
- Innovative implementation studies designed to improve behavioral health outcomes including studies focused on reducing disparities and/or targeting social or structural determinants of uptake of behavioral health practices, programs or policies for underserved populations in the US and around the globe
- Implementation studies examining outer context and social determinants of health related to implementing interventions to address current behavioral health crises including, but not limited to, adolescent mental health, suicide, and opioid and methamphetamine use.

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. We are especially interested in approaches that directly target building a more diverse and equitable workforce.
- 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 in implementation trials and studies
- Studies of measurement, data collection, and analyses of implementation costs and economic evaluations

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 (including highly dynamic contexts such as those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic), 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. 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 contextual health system-level facilitators and barriers 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 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 at the system level 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.
- 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

- Developing and testing implementation theories and strategies to achieve implementation and clinical outcomes (if appropriate) tailored to specific global contexts and settings
- Investigating the applicability of common dissemination or implementation research frameworks and models to specific global settings
- Adapting or creating measures and instruments applicable in diverse global settings
- Understanding scale up and sustainability in dissemination and implementation research and opportunities for reciprocal learning from resource constrained settings
- Exploring ethics, equity or power issues in global implementation research
- Application of implementation research to COVID-19 pandemic response, vulnerable populations, or humanitarian contexts in LMIC settings

Health Policy Dissemination & Implementation Science

- Studies of strategies that provide timely and responsive evidence support and dissemination to communicate evidence (e.g., data analytics, modelling, evaluation, behavioral/

- implementation research, qualitative insights, evidence synthesis, technology assessment/cost-effectiveness analysis and guidelines) in ways that promote its use by decision-makers (government policymakers, organizational leaders, professional leaders and citizens) in public and healthcare system policymaking. This can include studies that examine strategies to combat misinformation and can inform the design of timely, demand-driven evidence-support strategies for different types of decision-makers
- Studies that assess the implementation, sustainability, and/or de-implementation of local, state, or national public or private policies including, but not limited to, legislation, policies implemented in healthcare delivery systems, administrative rules, practice guidelines promulgated by major professional societies and whether and how research evidence was used in these processes. This can include analyses of unintended consequences and economic dimensions of policy implementation
 - Studies exploring adaptation in policy implementation across different contexts—such as low-resourced environments and organizations that serve low-income and/or minoritized communities
 - Studies about supporting evidence-informed health policy and/or implementation science with explicit health equity aims, including methods (e.g., community engagement strategies), equity theories, models and frameworks built into study design, execution, and dissemination
 - Studies assessing the effects of politics and broad socio-cultural forces on health policy development and implementation, with a focus on how these forces influence the extent to which policies are aligned with research evidence

Models, Measures, and Methods

- Application of measures and methods to capture the dynamic evolution of interventions across time and context
- Application of measures and methods to capture multisectoral approaches to dissemination and implementation
- 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
- Empirical tests of measures, methods, or models to predict or explain sustainability of implemented practices
- Research on dissemination or implementation methods or measurement that attempt to generalize across clinical conditions and settings

Prevention and Public Health

- Dynamic implementation of public health interventions and policies in the context of emerging public health issues (e.g., COVID-19, climate change).
- Advance implementation strategies and/or designs to address structural, multilevel and/or multisectoral factors in prevention/public health settings or promote the uptake of bundled 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 and low-resource settings.
- Develop and test transformative implementation strategies to improve the reach, accessibility, adoption or adaptation, and implementation of evidence-based practices in prevention, mitigation, and public health in the face of uncertainty.
- Improve public health communication strategies to enhance adoption of healthy behaviors/environments and address misinformation (e.g., vaccine hesitancy, COVID-19 preventive behaviors, nutrition).

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
- 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
- Dissemination and implementation of evidence-based interventions to ameliorate the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health of vulnerable populations