The Blueprint: Paradigm Project Updates

A Message From Dr. Simpson

Dear Colleagues,

It's an exciting time for the Paradigm Project as we rethink the current structure of health services research (HSR)—especially considering the effects of social determinants of health, the evolving needs of patients and communities, advances in technology, the rapid spread of information, and a need to conduct research that end-users can act upon in timely ways.

Fueled by a productive two-day meeting in Washington, D.C., last month, a large group of Design Teams are prototyping and testing innovative ideas to redesign HSR.

Over the next few months, teams will refine their ideas through a variety of formats, including role plays, week-long "mini-tests" involving people and organizations outside of the Paradigm Project, and more intensive testing to see how potential solutions hold up. I'm excited to see what we learn.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Simpson
President and CEO, AcademyHealth

Update: Learning Community Interview

The Paradigm Project has engaged 17 Design Teams, each focused on responding to a particular challenge facing HSR.

Jennifer Valenzuela, Chief People & Equity Officer, Health Leads provides an update on her Design Team's work.

Q: What challenge is your Design Team exploring?

A: We're trying to ensure that diverse communities are part of decision-making that impacts health services research. It's all part of helping HSR become more inclusive. Too often as a research hypothesis is being formed, the most relevant community members are not at the table. We hope to change that.

Q: What's the most important thing you've learned?
A: My learning from the January meeting is that who's in the room will determine the direction of your ideas. For example, our group is mostly community-focused people, thus we are taking more of a grassroots approach to our prototypes–while other folks are taking more of a grass-tops approach. It will be important for us to come together as a Learning Community to weave these two approaches together for maximum impact.

Q: A key goal of the Paradigm Project is to ensure HSR realizes its potential to improve health and the delivery of health care. What excites you about this?
A: If we can get to a place where impact is truly felt by a larger segment of the community, because of the changes in the way the research is being done, that's huge. That really excites me and I think our opportunity for that is really big.

Spotlight: Meet a Learning Community Member

Sean Grant is an assistant professor in the Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences at Indiana University's Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health.

"The Paradigm Project is in many ways an attempt to push the 'reset' button on HSR, with teams assigned to redesign every stage of the HSR journey," he says.

Of the many things that excite him about the project's potential, he cites *The Lancet's* REWARD campaign to reduce waste and increase the value of research.

Dr. Grant's Design Team (5B) is currently prototyping a preprint server for health services research through which researchers can share research manuscripts and other products—like visual abstracts or policy briefs—more efficiently and freely to increase access and transparency.

Resource: Data.org

Data.org is a new platform dedicated to facilitating partnerships and connections between social impact organizations and data science experts. Created by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, Data.org aims to help social impact organizations tap into the power of data—especially those who may not have the capacity for or technology to integrate data science into their decision making, evaluation, and impact demonstration efforts. The platform will offer training resources, analytics resources, and access to comprehensive datasets.

Reactor Panel Question

Are you a member of the Reactor Panel?

This month, the Paradigm Project Learning Community's question for you is:

The Paradigm Project is exploring how to ensure health services research (HSR) asks the right questions to benefit the right audiences, including those outside traditional academic circles. Have you ever shaped your own research process by engaging novel end-users at the outset?

Answer the Poll Question »