COURSE NUMBER: BCHS 2609/CLRES 2431
Translating Research for Policy and Practice

Dates:
Spring Term

Overview and Objectives:
Course Description: This course provides an introduction to concepts and skills in Knowledge Translation (a coordinated, collaborative approach to ensure that research findings are used by key stakeholders) and to the role of research in changing policy and practice at local, regional, and national levels. This module will build on concepts in community-partnered research introduced in Module A of this three-part sequence in community based participatory research.

This skills-based module will:
- Introduce learners to theoretical concepts in Knowledge Translation (KT), dissemination and implementation science;
- Teach students how to apply the above concepts to practical exercises to translate research findings for relevance to other key stakeholders, including community partners, program developers, and policy makers;
- Develop writing skills specifically for building legislative and media advocacy partnerships.

The goal of this course is to familiarize learners with the critically important steps involved in translating research findings for relevance to stakeholders beyond academia. Discussion, interactive learning exercises, and examples of research dissemination and implementation science will be used to provide a foundation in KT as an aspect of community-partnered research.

Responsibilities:
- Completion of the assigned readings for each class is expected to be done prior to class.
- Student will be assigned 2 short homework assignments plus one final paper that will count towards the final grade. All homework assignments are to be turned in by the beginning of class on the due date. Please send completed assignments via email to instructor by the due date.
- Attendance and participation in class are required.
- Evaluation criteria for this module will be based on completion of the homework assignments and course participation.

Course Requirements:
- Homework assignments 20%
- Final paper 30%
- Class participation and attendance 50%

Attendance Policy:
- Students are expected to attend each class. If you are unable to attend, please contact the course instructor(s) immediately.

Course Grading Scale:
For the computation of the final course grade as well as for the course assignments, the following grading scale will be used:

90 – 100 = A
86 – 89 = B+
80 – 85 = B
76 – 79 = C+
70 – 75 = C
60 – 65 = D
66 – 69 = D+
< 60 = F

Required Readings(s):

- Each week a separate set of journal articles and readings will be assigned that are the primary sources to guide discussion during the sessions.

Website resources:

- [http://ktclearinghouse.ca/](http://ktclearinghouse.ca/)

Academic Integrity:

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity ([http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html](http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html)). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

Disabilities:

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890/(412) 383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Course Schedule

### Session 1: Introduction to Knowledge Translation

- Introduce “knowledge translation” (KT) as a framework and different models employed in KT
- Provide illustrative examples of knowledge translation in community-based participatory research (CBPR)
- Identify different approaches and strategies for KT and apply these to clinical and translational research, with an emphasis on research dissemination

Required Reading(s):
Homework assignment(s):

Homework assignment #1: Due Session 2

Develop a stakeholder engagement plan for your research. An example will be provided in class.

1) Which stakeholders should be included in the process, why, how, and in what capacity (to do what)?
2) What are some potential challenges in engaging these stakeholders?
3) How will you approach stakeholders, what methods? How often?

**All homework assignments are to be no more than two pages double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, 1” margins**
Session 2: Knowledge Translation in Practice
The Science of Implementation

- Describe the process associated with identifying key stakeholders and strategies for integrating stakeholders into the research process
- Identify the multiple challenges associated with implementation
- An introduction to implementation science
  - GUEST -- Getting To Outcomes – Implementing Evidence-based Programs in Community Programs
    Behavioral Scientist, RAND
    http://www.rand.org/about/people/c/chinman_matthew.html
- Group Discussion -- identify barriers and facilitators for implementing evidence-based practice

Required Reading(s):

Recommended Readings:


Homework assignment(s):
Homework Assignment #2: Due Session 3
PICK ONE:

1) Identify a policy or practice implication from your own research or a recent journal article and prepare a brief summary of the research and the policy implications written for your stakeholders.
2) Prepare a press release from your own research or a recent journal article.

**Homework assignments are to be no more than two pages double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, 1” margins

Due Today: Homework assignment #1
Session 3: Training in Media and Legislative Advocacy

- Provide illustrative examples of knowledge translation in community-based participatory research (CBPR)
- Practice communicating about research
- Learn about government and media relations

**Guests:**
Community Engagement Coordinator, University of Pittsburgh
http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/home/directory/jennifer-jones

**Required Reading(s):**

**Due Today:** Homework assignment #2
Session 4: Disseminating Evidence-based Practice

- Group discussion about examples of dissemination strategies
- Describe how researchers can strengthen the knowledge translation process and bridge the knowledge gap through intentional dissemination
- Identify the key challenges and facilitators in bringing evidence-based research into practice

Guest Lecturer

Reading
Stein B et al. A Mental Health Intervention for Schoolchildren Exposed to Violence: A Randomized Controlled Trial. JAMA 2003; 290(5): 603-611

Homework assignment(s):
Preparation for final paper: Due Session 5

Using the KT frameworks provided during the course, write a final paper outlining a KT Action Plan (also known as a Dissemination Plan) for a research project you are working on.

Alternatively, with the approval of the course instructor, write a policy brief on a research area of interest, expanding on Homework assignment #2.

**All final papers are to be no more than 5 pages double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, 1” margins.**
Session 5: Creating a KT Action Plan

- Describe a range of processes for research dissemination
- Create a systematic KT Action Plan for a research study or research agenda

Class presentations of KT Action Plans

**Required Reading(s):**
None

**Due Today:**
Final Paper
Homework assignment(s):

Assignment #1:
Brief paper on how “Knowledge Translation” might be applied in your own research.
  1) Which stakeholders should be included in the process, why, how, and in what capacity?
  2) What are some potential challenges in engaging these stakeholders?
  3) Or you may choose to reflect on an example of stakeholder engagement and knowledge translation from your own work.

**No more than two pages double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, 1” margins**

Assignment #2:
PICK ONE:

  1) Identify a policy or practice implication from your own research or a recent journal article and prepare a brief summary of the research and the policy implications written for your stakeholders.
  2) Prepare a press release from your own research or a recent journal article.

**All homework assignments are to be no more than two pages double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, 1” margins**

FINAL PAPER:

  1) Using the KT frameworks provided during the course, write a final paper outlining a KT Action Plan for a research project you are working on. Reflect in particular on the “integrated knowledge translation” approaches we have discussed in class.
    a. What should be transferred to decision makers? (the message)
    b. To whom should research knowledge be transferred? (the target audience)
    c. By whom should research knowledge be transferred? (the messenger)
    d. How should research knowledge be transferred? (the knowledge transfer processes and supporting communications infrastructure)
    e. With what effect should research knowledge be transferred? (evaluation)

  2) Alternatively, with the approval of the course instructor, write a policy brief on a research area of interest or another research dissemination product (such as a ‘blog’ or a piece for the Courier) -- if choosing this second option, then please write an introduction demonstrating your application of the KT framework (message, messenger, audience, and strategy being used to translate knowledge) in producing this piece.

**No more than 5 pages double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, 1” margins**