Center for Dissemination & Implementation

Dissemination and Implementation Research (D&I) is an emerging field of inquiry focused on generating knowledge about strategies to close the gap between evidence-based interventions and their application to improve population health.

During the last 30 years, scientific research has produced numerous medications, devices and practices that improve health and lifespan. However, these advancements often do not become part of routine clinical and public health practice and therefore, opportunities to improve population health are frequently, and tragically, missed.

How We Work

We are thought leaders who engage with local, national and international experts in D&I science to find solutions to implementation challenges in health care and public health.

We advance curriculum development for teaching D&I concepts and methods locally, nationally and internationally.

We connect and nurture faculty, students and clinical partners to build expertise in D&I research in St. Louis and globally in real-world practice settings.

What We Do

ISSUE

If we are to ensure that all populations benefit from the nation’s investments in scientific discoveries, closing the gap between research discovery and clinical and community practice is necessary.

Despite the millions of dollars spent in medicine and public health, evidence-based interventions in routine care settings are often not implemented.

OUR ROLE

By advancing science, training and supporting service delivery, our center works to reduce the gap between scientific discovery of evidence-based interventions and real-world impact.

Our center focuses on weaving innovations and interventions into the fabric of health systems and social systems so that they meet, and help, actual people.
Washington University is a top resource in the D&I field. Through the advancement of methods and perspectives and the development of new curriculum, we propel the next generation of D&I scientists.

We work with researchers to:

- Conceptualize implementation research projects
- Design studies and measurements to understand implementation strategies and outcomes
- Communicate findings and results to policy makers, implementers and the public

Our center hosts various workshops, meetings and an annual D&I Bootcamp. Our workshops offer the basics of D&I research, showing participants how these concepts can support their current and future research goals. Bootcamp is designed to stimulate the development of innovative grant proposals in D&I science and to prepare researchers to compete successfully for grant funding.

The popular Washington University Network for Dissemination and Implementation Research (WUNDIR), is an informal network of researchers with a common interest in dissemination and implementation science. Every six weeks, WUNDIR holds regular half-day meetings to share new resources for D&I science, provide peer critique of papers and grant proposals, and plan joint projects.

Because D&I is transdisciplinary, practitioners benefit from multiple perspectives to solve the health-care quality gap. Our center works to ensure that all populations benefit from the nation’s investments in scientific discoveries by closing the gap between research discovery and clinical and community practice, leading to real world impact.

Given the unprecedented nature of COVID-19, regional policy makers need tools to help translate general evidence about features of the epidemic’s transmission into local projections relevant for St. Louis and Missouri.

With collaborators, our center created a tool that takes what we know about the pandemic — COVID-19 symptoms and spread — to predict virus trajectory over time. The tool enables policy makers to explore implications of trends in behavior and social distancing as well as hospitalization rates and testing. Local and state health officials use these tools to inform decision-making for a healthier region.