CTSI Implementation Science Program

The UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute created its Implementation Science Program in 2013 to strengthen the capacity of UF Health as a learning health system and to advance implementation science across the state. Implementation science is the study of methods to promote the integration of research findings and evidence into healthcare policy and practice. It seeks to understand the behavior of healthcare professionals and other stakeholders as a key variable in the sustainable uptake, adoption and implementation of evidence-based interventions. The Implementation Science Program is positioned to build on the model of the CTSI-led UF Health Personalized Medicine Program, in which implementation strategies are developed and piloted at UF Health and then adapted and tested for use in other types of health-care settings. The program collaborates with the CTSI’s statewide research partners and networks, including the Health IMPACTS for Florida practice-based research network.

**Goals**

- Promote research on the dissemination and implementation of clinical research findings in health-care settings in Florida
- Promote innovative, multidisciplinary team science that connects UF researchers with community clinicians and patients to conduct high-quality research in “real-world” settings
- Consult with researchers and community clinicians to develop research ideas and clinical problems into pragmatic trials
- Create a learning health system by conducting research within UF Health and disseminating the research findings to health system administrators and policymakers

**Operations Committee**

The program’s Operations Committee is comprised of leadership, faculty and staff from UF Health and across the university. Co-chaired by Drs. Rosenberg and Shenkman, the committee meets monthly to set program goals and direct the program’s activities. The diverse membership of this committee is unique; the enthusiasm and dedication of its members promote the collaboration required for successful implementation science.

**Implementation Science Innovation Studios**

Each semester, the program offers two to three Implementation Science Innovation Studios, which are multidisciplinary roundtable discussions of implementation science-related research proposals and ideas. Scientists, methodologists, community clinicians, patients and research coordinators participate in the studio process and provide concrete, actionable advice. Some innovation studios are focused on specific funding mechanisms (e.g. Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute), while others are open for the discussion of any research topic or clinical problem that has the potential to be developed into an implementation research proposal.
Pilot Studies
Health IMPACTS has partnered successfully with primary care practices in the Gainesville, Jacksonville, Orlando and Tallahassee areas to conduct two initial pilot studies:

**Concussion-Traumatic Brain Injury Management**

**Purpose:** This study has implemented an evidence-based concussion management program in community and clinical settings using health information technology.

**Provider Training:** Providers who participated in this study completed training in the assessment of concussions and traumatic brain injury management. Researchers used the pre- and post-test results to evaluate the effectiveness of the standard training materials, and providers received CME credits. Providers were also given on-site training on study protocol by research coordinators.

**Community Partners:** The research team has partnered with Pop Warner football in Jacksonville to conduct baseline assessments with the children participating in football in the fall of 2012.

**Health Risk Assessment in Primary Care**

**Purpose:** This study used physician and adolescent input to develop strategies to promote health risk assessments (HRAs) with teens using health information technology.

**Provider Training:** Providers who participated in this study had the option to receive CME credits for completing training on HRAs. Pediatricians who wanted Maintenance of Certification credits could participate in a Quality Improvement project during data collection. This project was approved by the American Board of Pediatrics. Participating pediatricians reviewed their clinic’s data, identified strategies for improvements, and participated in online e-meetings to share ideas. Providers were also given on-site training on study protocol by research coordinators.

**Community Partners:** The research team participated with Bond Community Health Centers to do HRAs with young adults in non-clinical settings (e.g. Housing Authority complexes).

**Governance Structure**