

Evaluation of Large-Scale Initiatives: Exemplars from UMB-DF/HCC U-54 Partnership

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 - Planning and Evaluation Core Training Core: Karen Burns-White (DF/HCC) & Joan Becker (UMass Boston)
 - Survey & Statistical Methods Core: Lois Beiner (Umass Boston) & Wendy London (DF/HCC)
 - Outreach Core: Christopher Lathan (DF/HCC) & S. Tiffany Donaldson (UMass Boston)
- Staff: Lori-Anne Ramsay (UMass Boston) & Deborah Goff (DF/HCC)
- Program Steering Committee & Internal Advisory Committee

Overview

- Theory of Evaluation of Large Interventions (ELI)
- Evaluation exemplars
 - Research
 - Training
 - Partnership
- Lessons learned and challenges

ELSI: Reasons

- The science of team science
 - Addressing complex problems
 - Need for innovation
 - Translation
 - Investment in human capital
- Demonstrate value and effectiveness
- Program improvement
- Mid-course adjustments
- Connecting outcomes with inputs

Goals of DF/HCC-UMB U54 Partnership

- Develop a rigorous, collaborative health disparities and cancer research program
- Develop a robust and sustainable cancer research program at UMass Boston
- Expand the cancer training program
- Develop an effective cancer outreach program
- Develop a vibrant Partnership that attracts and focuses cancer research interests among existing faculty and faculty recruits at both institution
- Support the career development of early stage/junior faculty

Research

- Well-established metrics
 - Publications
 - Scholarly presentations
 - Extra-mural funding
- Leveraging current research
 - The A. David Mazzone Research Awards Program at DF/HCC
 - Administrative supplements
 - Establishing new centers
 - CPCT
 - Center for Translational Health Communication
- Fostering new research collaborations between DF/HCC-UMB investigators
- Encouraging new research through internal RFAs
 - Tracking through LOIs
 - External reviews of applications

Training: Investing in human capital

- Faculty recruitment
- Recruiting and placing students and post docs in research projects
- Planning and Evaluation
 - Oversee progress and career development plans of junior investigators
 - Strategy development
 - Project evaluations and feedback
- Seminars
 - Student focused and participation
 - Survey and statistical methods cores seminars
 - Monthly Scientific meetings
 - Annual retreats and symposia

Partnership and Outreach

- Community education sessions
 - E.g. bio-banking education sessions
- Capacity building among CBO
 - Outreach among churches
- Partnership
 - Planning and Evaluation Core
 - Processes in place to oversee research projects, cores, training programs, outreach initiatives and career development plans
 - Frequency of communications among PIs
 - Teleconference calls
 - Meetings
 - Involvement of PIs through Executive Committee participation
 - External Assessment
 - Internal Advisory Committee
 - Feed back on projects
 - Program Steering Committee

Lessons Learned and Challenges

- Lessons learned
 - Tracking intensively and documenting activities
 - Reporting and discussing processes and inputs
- Challenges
 - Tracking: what to measure
 - Validity: connecting inputs to outcomes
 - Assessing long-term impacts

Questions?