Expanding Opportunities in Basic Behavioral and Social Science Research

Identifying New Opportunities Breakout Session:
Advances in Future Applied Research
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Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

Background

• Issues in the translation process:
  – Better theoretical models
  – Better understanding of basic mechanism of behavior change and dynamic processes
  – Better understanding of effects of cultural factors
  – More modeling
  – Advances in measurements
  – Systematic interventions do make a difference → but poor job in rolling them out
Assumptions

• A lot of the work has an implicit assumption; need to recognize that there is a delay in being able to apply basic research (Obama’s statement that we may not realize the results for 30 years)

• There is a push to make basic and/or social science applied; need to recognize that there are unique contributions of each field.

The Challenge

• Communication and Collaboration
  – Requiring interdisciplinary communication and collaboration within funding mechanisms is key to enhancing interdisciplinary research
  – Complex multi-factorial issue with no simple answers

• Dissemination and scalability
  – Occurs on a continuum but there are gaps in translation
  – Does it apply to real world settings
The Opportunity

• Methodology
  – We aren’t keeping pace with available data
  – What do we do with existing data and how do we use it across disciplines

• Promote culture change
  – NIH – provide incentives to bridge gap
  – Professional organizations, OppNet partners, universities
  – Training opportunities

Anticipated Outcomes

• Culture change resulting in b-BSSR becoming norm

• Stronger extant interdisciplinary teams bridging the gap between b-BSSR

• Better uptake of EB interventions

• Bigger impact on decreasing negative health consequences, improving QOL and life expectancy