

Reflections from Junior Faculty

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Outline

- Developing practice linkages
- Additional methods training
- Mentoring and technical assistance
- Academic advancement
- Additional considerations

Developing practice linkages

- Mentorship by senior faculty with practice linkages
 - Spend some time with practitioners/in practice environment
 - Identify shared goals, mutually beneficial projects
 - Informal meetings to establish personal relationships
 - Serve as external evaluator
 - Send collaborators latest relevant research articles
 - Consistency- it takes time to build relationship and trust
- Caution: much of time spent developing practice linkages does not result in “products” recognized by academic institutions

Additional methods training

- Methods
 - Qualitative methods
 - Evaluation methods
 - Comparative effectiveness research
 - Sources:
 - Cyberseminars (esp, VA QUERI HSRD)
 - Training institutes
 - Conferences
 - Consulting with implementation researchers
 - Engage collaborators strong in methods
- Consider: training in particular method may vary widely across disciplines

Institutional supports, mentoring and technical assistance

- Strong history of funded mentoring programs (career development awards)
- Career development/mentoring plan in offer letter
- Protected time for off-site meetings with collaborators
- Access to legal counsel around training/consultation research with community agencies
- Mentor who serves as gatekeeper to institution-wide and other opportunities for training and collaborating on grants
- Regular meetings with advisors
- Brief, intensive workshops on specific topics
- Travel /training funds, research assistants, programming/biostat support

Academic advancement

- R01 may not be immediately feasible; consider R03s, R21s, career development awards, pilot funding from NIH Centers (P50, P30)
 - Carve out specific niche/research setting that is untapped by others in dept.
 - Find ways to publish using existing data, systematic reviews, and develop collaborations while more ambitious research is underway
- A good deal of uncertainty as to whether institutions (tenure/promotion committees) will recognize time and effort in developing collaborations

Additional considerations

- Critical to get experience in implementation study
 - Join a team already involved in D&I work
 - Consider opportunities to collaborate with other junior investigators
 - Keep knocking on doors until find someone with shared interests
 - Team approach is key
- Lack of immediate results can be discouraging; remember the reward in building toward bridging the toughest gaps between science and real world

- Many thanks to the 2010 Implementation Research Institute Fellows!!