



INTeRACT for Health: building integrated Knowledge Translation capacity

Integrated Knowledge Translation and The INTeRACT for Health project

Integrated Knowledge Translation (iKT) is defined as “a model of collaborative research, where researchers work with knowledge users who identify a problem and have the authority to implement the research recommendations” [1]. Within healthcare in Ireland, iKT is underexplored. Few existing resources or focused events are tailored to address capacity building.

The **INTeRACT for Health** project aims to enhance iKT capacity and resources both nationally and specifically for the HBCRG and partners working within Health and Wellbeing in the Health Service Executive (HSE).

INTeRACT workshops

Two INTeRACT workshops were hosted on the 12th and 13th of June 2018, facilitated by an experienced knowledge broker, Professor Maureen Dobbins (McMaster University, Canada). Aims, attendees and content are summarised below:

Workshop 1

- **Aim:** Build iKT Capacity for the HBCRG, HSE Health and Wellbeing, and interested stakeholders
- **Attended by:** 44 participants (including 11 HSE staff and 8 HBCRG members)
- **Content:** (1) National and international speakers presented successful iKT projects related to chronic illness prevention, self-management and health behaviour change (2) information on the iKT resources participants use and their iKT needs were gathered through facilitated discussions, to inform the development of an Irish iKT toolkit.



Workshop 2

- **Aim:** To develop a shared HBCRG and HSE Health and Wellbeing research agenda
- **Attended by:** 17 participants (7 HSE staff members with strategic roles in the development and roll-out of national Health and Wellbeing programmes; 8 HBCRG members; one senior representative from the Department of Health; one senior representative from Research and Development, Strategic Planning and Transformation, HSE)
- **Content:** (1) Presentations by policy makers, planners and researchers on barriers and facilitators to iKT, followed by panel discussions (2) Small group work on the development of HRB Applied Partnership Awards



Identified needs (Workshop 1 discussions)

1. **Training** in iKT processes and knowledge brokering and access to **resources & tools**
2. **Funding** for iKT projects and the creation of further iKT resources
3. **Core Infrastructure Support** to develop networks and collaborations between Department of Health, HSE & academic partners
4. **Communication** forum for funders and researchers to openly discuss aims and objectives

Facilitators to and Barriers to iKT (Workshop 2 presentations)

Facilitators

Accessing & growing the evidence base

Willingness of staff to engage in creating evidence
Commissioning or conducting research

Access to resources (including funding)

Money, funding, resources and incentives
Knowledge brokering organisations

Organisational culture in healthcare organisations

Culture of valuing research & reflective questioning
Research officers

Stakeholder involvement

Establishing activities, partnerships & collaborations
Co-production of knowledge at every stage
Researcher placements within health service organisations

Barriers

Accessing, interpreting & applying evidence base

Complex manner in which research is presented
Difficulty in identifying & obtaining relevant material

Limited resources

Limited funding and lack of resources for implementation
Mismatch between funding timeline and knowledge user needs

Organisational policies & culture in healthcare organisations

Lack of motivation for change
Lack of research culture and iKT facilitation
Complexities of research tendering processes

Differing stakeholder priorities

Research which is incompatible with scalability
Lack of shared goals (researchers/policy makers)



Co-developed Actions (Workshop 2)

Actions	Timescale
HBCRG to propose to the HRB & HSE to run a brokering event for Irish healthcare researchers and policy makers/planners to facilitate iKT collaborations	September 2018
HBCRG to propose to the HRB to run an Applied Partnership Award training day for potential academic and knowledge user applicants	September 2018
HBCRG to organise a follow-up iKT training event to build iKT skills and strengthen networking opportunities for those interested in iKT	November 2018
HBCRG to collate existing iKT resources including workshop presentations into an online open access toolkit	December 2018
HBCRG to advocate for infrastructure support for iKT with the HRB/Department of Health/HSE	September 2018
HSE health partners to form a working group to consolidate workshop learning and develop new iKT initiatives.	December 2018

HBCRG, NUI Galway	
Professor Molly Byrne, <i>Director, HBCRG</i> Dr Bláthín Casey, <i>Postdoctoral researcher</i> Ms Marita Hennessy, <i>PhD student</i> Dr Jenny McSharry, <i>Deputy Director, HBCRG</i> Dr Oonagh Meade, <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i>	Dr Chris Noone, <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i> Ms Valerie Parker, <i>Strategic Development and Project Manager</i> Dr Elaine Toomey, <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i> Dr Deirdre Walsh, <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i>
HSE	
Ms Martina Blake, <i>National Tobacco Free Ireland Lead</i> Dr Mary Morrissey, <i>Psychology Lead, Health Intelligence</i> Ms Maeve O'Brien, <i>Research & Policy Officer, Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme</i> Dr Maria O'Brien, <i>Making Every Contact Count Lead</i>	Ms Sarah O'Brien, <i>Healthy Eating and Active Living Lead</i> Ms Mary Clare O'Hara, <i>Programme Manager Research & Development, Strategic Planning & Transformation</i> Ms Marion Rackard, <i>Project Manager, Alcohol Programme</i> Ms Aishling Sheridan, <i>Research Officer, Department of Public Health</i>
Department of Health	
Dr Robert Murphy, <i>Senior Economics Research Officer, Research Services Unit</i>	
McMaster University, Canada	
Prof Maureen Dobbins, <i>Scientific Director, National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools</i>	

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oonagh.meade@nuigalway.ie

www.nuigalway.ie/hbcrg

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