IMPLEMENTATION
knowledge and news

trustees wanted!

Be part of a busy group committed to growing and supporting the implementation field in the UK.

Do you work in practice, or policy, or research with an implementation or improvement focus?

The UK-IS Board is seeking colleagues from within the Society membership to join us as new Trustees. We're looking for people with a strong commitment to evidence-informed implementation or improvement, some familiarity with emerging thinking about good practice in this growing field, and above all a keen enthusiasm for supporting those who work in it, whatever sector they are in. We're looking for creative and energetic colleagues at any stage of their career who are prepared to be hands-on and who can help us widen the representation on the Board and take the Society forward into 2020 and beyond.

If you think you may be interested in the role, contact the Chair for an informal chat at
dghate@cevi.org.uk

Check out the current board members on our website **here**

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UK IMPLEMENTATION SOCIETY

inside this issue

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2020 edition of Implementation Knowledge and News

It's been a fairly quiet time in the UK-IS back office during the summer, and although again we're frustratingly in lockdown or one of its UK-wide variants at the time this bulletin comes out, we're keen to get the show on the road again.

We completed our 7th successful Reflect and Refuel (R&R) hosted discussion in the second week of July, and after the summer recess the Board met to discuss a new programme of activities for the Society. We particularly agreed that the R&R on-line events during lockdown #1 were well attended, lively, and notable for a diverse group of participants keen to talk to one another across the sectoral and disciplinary boundaries that so often separate us. So herewith a reach-out to all members – tell us whether you'd like more of these events to be organised and what sorts of questions you'd like to table for discussion. If you're willing to act as host for a discussion so much the better – we're keen to hear from you. Please get in touch. Other plans afoot include a short series of training events on different aspects of implementation (in different settings, doing implementation research etc), perhaps with associated R&R-type discussions afterwards to allow participants to chew over implications, further questions, future directions and so on.

On another track, over the summer we were in conversation with colleagues in other implementation networks with a view to developing better links and laying foundations for more collaborative events.

I'm pleased to report two promising developments. We've agreed to create a regular news exchange with the Implementation Network for Ireland and Northern Ireland together with reciprocal benefits where that makes sense, so watch our future bulletins for news on that. As a first step we're sharing this bulletin with their members as well as our own and hope to be able to collaborate on new events in 2021.

We also congratulated Alex Ziemann (City University London) on her re-appointment to Board of the recently refreshed European Implementation Collaborative (EIC) and have agreed with Alex that from December 2020 she will also sit as an honorary member of the UK-IS board. That way we can have a strong bridge to activities and plans across the two groups and better share our efforts and activities in future. Watch this space, and next bulletin will include a report-back from EIC direct from Alex herself.

That's all for now – we're looking forward to reconnecting with everyone over the next few months come what may.... and as ever, we welcome your contributions - and if anyone is inspired to volunteer to help us with bulletin compilation, events management, or content for the bulletin or website, let us know.

Deborah Ghate, Chair.

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events

ARC South London invites UK-IS members to join in with the remaining events in their series of on-line conversations on implementation topics in November 2020.

Free to attend, and you can also listen to archived discussions from earlier in the series.

https://www.arc-sl.nihr.ac.uk/events-training/forthcoming-events-training

CONSORTIUM FOR IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

Consortium for Implementation Science Forum: Harnessing Implementation Science to Promote Health Equity November 19, 2020 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM US/Eastern – Zoom Webinar.

Join a discussion with Dr. Ana Baumann (Brown School of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis), Dr. Eva Woodward (VA Center for Mental Healthcare and Outcomes Research, Little Rock, Arkansas), Dr. Lori Carter-Edwards (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Pastor James Gailliard (Word Tabernacle Church, Rocky Mount, North Carolina), Dr. Cory Bradley (Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis), and Dr. Sara Jacobs (RTI International) on the intersection of implementation science and health equity. ***More ....***

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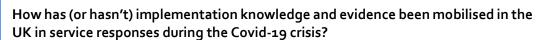
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Reflect & Refuel

During June and July, UK-IS held a series of discussions with members exploring different aspects of implementation in relation to how our world has changed and continues to change since the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The themed sessions provided an opportunity for members to have an informal discussion on some of the pressing topics today relevant to implementation practice and science, and were very well attended and received.

R & R snippets

Snippets from R&R discussions #2:

How has (or hasn't) implementation knowledge and evidence been mobilised in the UK in service responses during the Covid-19 crisis?

Board member Dr Tom Jefford, director at Family Psychology Mutual based in Cambridge hosted one of our Reflect and Refuel (R&R) sessions on-line on June 25th.

Some of the themes captured by Tom from the discussion included:

- The challenge for implementation science has been to respond quickly to a rapidly changing landscape.

- However the use of evidence and the application of implementation principles derived from evidence can be achieved in real time, not least if it is done in simplified form

- The Covid-19 crisis has led to innovation but also significant waste of resources through poor procurement, resources being deployed in the wrong place or through poor planning

- In a period of crisis we may change our stance on the normal checks and balances on leadership and governance, and may relax or apply them differently - but this is time limited before dissent rises

- Many relationships between central government, public health and local authorities have been strained through lack of communication, clarity of roles and false assumptions about capacity

- It remains the case that writing guidance and then sending it out to schools/ businesses/ health services etc is not the end of the task for effective implementation! This does not mean that successful implementation will then follow

- Implementation science can and should be articulating a vision of processes and models which would reduce inefficiency and deliver faster results, even in times when resources are stretched and speed is of the essence

- In the post Covid period what innovations will be retained and embedded? The rapid adoption of many innovations such as tele medicine and online working are likely to transform many services

Please forward all submissions for the next issue to the Society's Knowledge Resources Officer, Andrew Walker, by 8th January 2021 at admin@ukimplementation.org.uk
Submissions are welcomed from members and non-members alike

Reflect & Refuel

R & R snippets

Snippets from R&R discussions #3:

The final R&R session was hosted by Board member Professor Nick Sevdalis on 9th July and focused on the role and use of 'formal' theory in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. We asked whether formal implementation theory has been used? And if yes, has it been useful? Can it help us learn lessons from the pandemic response?

Points arising out of the discussion included:

- Use of theory is arguably a function of how prepared and ready organisations were to apply it: in some settings, where staff are used to applying theory to their work, such preparedness and confidence in applying theory was present and thus facilitated theory applications better than in settings where theory use has been historically rare

- Whether theory use was useful remains to be proven: in many settings, the outcomes of theory application will be sown in subsequent evaluations, which are yet to take place or conclude

- Successful theory use does not necessarily use a linear path of theory-derived hypotheses to be tested (as in traditional academic work). Theory can be used to inform practice in a dynamic, often non-linear manner – some of the discussants suggested that this is the most helpful application of theory that they have experienced

- A distinction was drawn between 'big theory' and 'programme theory': the latter has been a better-used approach in some setting (both in health and social care) than the former, as it is more intuitive and involves stakeholders

- The discussants debated how much implementation practitioners and scientists have advocated for the use of theory during the pandemic and whether further advocacy is needed by individuals and organisations (such as UK-IS) in the future

- The session concluded that a reflection on the use of theory with peers from different sectors (e.g., social and health care, practice and academia) is useful and should continue in the future as organisations move from crisis response to recovery mode

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ZonMW Online conference: *Building on effectiveness research: results and lessons learned from research into core elements of youth interventions*

26 November 2020 - 09:30 - 17:00, Online – FREE to attend

ZonMw (The Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development), together with seven research consortia, are holding an international conference presenting the lessons learned from research on core elements of evidence-based programs for children and youth.

The past few years seven consortia studied 'what works for whom, when, and why' in interventions for multiple issues in child development. These include: Anxiety and depression; ADHD and hyperkynetic behavior; Social skills and resilience; Externalizing problem behavior; Families with multi-problems; Light parenting support; Early prevention and interventions against child abuse.

During this full day programme the consortia will discuss their findings and different innovative research methods used. ***More information and to register …..***

Group Memberships - did you know that as well as welcoming individual members, the UK Implementation Society offers discounts for groups of five or more members joining together?

In 2018 we welcomed 7 members from Leeds Rethink team, and 22 members from CELCIS at the University of Strathclyde in 2019.

If you have colleagues who would like to benefit from membership in 2020, contact:

admin@ ukimplementation.org.uk

Bloggers Required

The UK-IS blog page is a great place to get your thoughts and observations about implementation science and practice into the public domain.

Contact our Commissioning Editor for Blogs, Mark Pearson at: admin@ ukimplementation.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter

We tweet and re-tweet regularly in between bulletins with news or comment on national and international developments, events and jobs in implementation science and practice.

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knowledge resources

Handbook on Implementation Science
Edited by Per Nilsen, Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Linköping University, Sweden and Sarah A. Birken, Department of Implementation Science, Wake Forest University. The Handbook on Implementation Science bring together a wealth of knowledge from some of the leading figures in implementation science. It provides an overview of origins of the field, theoretical approaches, key concepts, perspectives, and methods.
More …

Implementation Science 3.0
Bianca Albers, Aron Shlonsky and Robyn Mildon edit this book, which provides a multidisciplinary, international, and applied perspectives on implementation science. It draws from fields of social welfare, public health, education, and psychology to explore topics that include, the factors associated with effective implementation, organisational context and readiness for change, implementation theories, models, and frameworks, measuring implementation and implementation at scale.
More …

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Click bold titles for hyperlinks

UK-IS Board

m e e t   t h e   b o a r d

Over the next few editions of *Implementation Knowledge and News*, we asked our Board members to contribute a short profile to introduce themselves and their work in implementation, and their role in the UK Implementation Society.

First up, meet Professor Nick Sevdalis, Trustee and Scientific Lead.   Nick's day job is Director of the Centre for Implementation Science, Kings College London.

Professor Nick Sevdalis, Trustee and Scientific Lead

I am a psychologist by training and I work in the field of healthcare implementation – mostly in hospital-based care pathways. I came across implementation science approximately 10 years ago – partly driven by frustration when interventions that we had spent considerable time and effort in developing and evaluating in the context of surgical care failed to gain traction within routine clinical practice. Around the same time, I became involved with the journal Implementation Science, initially through reviewing papers and later through editorial roles, which further fuelled my interest to study the field.

Jointly with colleagues, I am currently working in three main areas. Firstly, we are developing methods to evaluate the success of implementation processes. We have developed a guideline for the design of implementation evaluations in health (called 'ImpRes', which stands for 'implementation science research development tool' – you can find it here: http://www.kingsimprovementscience.org/ImpRes). Secondly, we are involved in numerous 'hybrid' studies, which means that we are evaluating whether healthcare interventions (for diabetes, postnatal depression, Parkinson's' disease and severe mental illness, amongst others) are clinically effective and at the same time viewed as acceptable, feasible and appropriate to be implemented both by users and providers of health services. In short, we are evaluating how effective implementation approaches for these interventions are. Lastly, we are carrying out a number of pragmatic evaluations of health service innovations (such as remote working and staff wellbeing programmes) that were introduced rapidly in response to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, with the aim to learn and improve implementation processes in the future (and beyond the pandemic).

I find my role as Scientific Lead for UK-IS very exciting. I very much aspire to promote a useful dialogue between researchers and practitioners through this role, via workshops and events and representation of UK-IS at research conferences. There is a risk that our field becomes fractured over time between its academic and its practice arms – UK-IS is proactively trying to avoid such a rift by bringing together researchers and practitioners in everything that it does.

IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE NEWS

**Implementation Science News
October 2020 Newsletter**

The latest edition of the Implementation Science News newsletter, from the Consortium for Implementation Science in the United States, contains highlights from their site, including: a commentary, a resource of the month, an announcement, upcoming events and conferences, training opportunities, fellowships, job opportunities, funding opportunities, webinars, and recent abstracts.

Explore the newsletter here …

Click bold titles for weblinks

about us

Across the world, scientists, policy makers, funders and practitioners recognise that there is an implementation gap between what we know about effective services, and how we deliver them in practice.

In social care and in health and education as well as in other areas of services for people, the fields of implementation, improvement and innovation science and p actice are rapidly developing, aiming to pool knowledge and knowhow in order to bridge this gap more quickly.

The UK Implementation Society (UK-IS) is working to promote, increase and sustain knowledge and understanding of the science and practice of effective implementation. We bring together professionals and students working to share cross-disciplinary learning to address the implementation gap. UK-IS is funded entirely by donations and subscriptions.

do you want access to other resources like this?

Are you interested in improving the effectiveness of services using the latest knowledge from the globally developing field of implementation science and practice? If so Join the UK Implementation Society.

The Society was formed by an independent group of researchers, practice leaders, and policy professionals working in academia, central and local government and the third sector. It is one of a number of similar groups developing across the world.

The Society is for people who want to be part of a multidisciplinary learning community working towards the implementation of more effective services for people and communities. We are building a range of activities and resources to bring people together and develop the field in the UK.

Members have access to these opportunities:

- Meet and share learning with others working in policy, practice, and science across a wide range of services to people

- The option to be listed in the UK Implementation Society Online Directory of Members

- Reduced fees for learning and networking events, seminars and conferences both virtual and physical, at different locations around the UK

- Access and contribute to online and other resources including publications, learning resources, links and information on relevant events and developments in implementation science and practice around the world

Contact us at
admin@ukimplementation.org.uk

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please forward all submissions for the next issue to the Society's Knowledge Resources Officer, Andrew Walker, by
8th January 2021
at admin@ukimplementation.org.uk
Submissions are welcomed from members and non-members alike

UK IMPLEMENTATION SOCIETY
Building capacity, sharing learning, and connecting professionals in implementation, improvement and innovation in services to people

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To join and for more information on the Society visit:

www.ukimplementation.org.uk