



## Poster 11 – 2018 Nordic Implementation Conference

### Doing research with the people who use it: The Integrated Knowledge Translation Research Network

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#### *Background*

Integrated Knowledge Translation research requires researchers to work with knowledge users (e.g., patients, clinicians, managers, policy makers) who identify a problem and have the authority to act on the findings. It is generally accepted that this approach leads to an increase in the relevance, applicability and impact of research results.

#### *Project aim*

The purpose of the IKTR network is to advance the science of integrated knowledge translation. The specific objectives of the network are: 1) To advance the understanding of IKT from the perspective of knowledge users, researchers, funders and universities; 2) To assess the impacts of IKT; 3) To develop and adapt IKT theories and measurement tools; 4) To develop resources that will build IKT capacity; and 5) To train the next generation of IKT researchers.

#### *Project methods*

The Integrated Knowledge Translation Research Network began in 2016 as a 7-year program of research. Launched with over 60 researcher and knowledge-user co-investigators, it has evolved into an international network that links experts on collaborative research and the many stakeholders committed to better understanding and using the IKT approach to research.

#### *Project results*

The first area of focus for the network has been to achieve conceptual clarity on the differences between IKT and other collaborative research approaches. To this end we have begun a number of research syntheses. Because IKT involves multiple institutions and stakeholders, we are collaborating with funders and health-system organizations on empirical studies to understand what conditions will foster the best collaborations and impacts. As we build the science of IKT, the Integrated Knowledge Translation Network will become the hub of IKT training internationally.

#### *Preliminary or final conclusions/discussion*

It is widely accepted among knowledge translation experts that IKT works, but there is limited scientific evidence of its effectiveness. How to measure the impact of IKT projects is one of many questions that our network will try to answer. What makes for successful research collaborations and how can success be reproduced? How does IKT differ from other collaborative research approaches? What aspects of our existing research infrastructure promote or inhibit integrated knowledge translation?