

# How is Research Transferred into Practical Applications?: Lessons from Two Federally-Funded Research Projects

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Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration for Latinos:  
Assessment, Treatment and Recovery  
National Hispanic/Latino ATTC  
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# ROADMAP

1. SMART Cougars and UHDARDP-II
2. Practical Applications
3. Dissemination Challenges
4. Building Partnerships: Research to Practice and Practice to Research

# The Projects

## **SC & SC Plus**

- Funder: SAMHSA (2013-2018)
- Target: Hispanics and African Americans 18-24 (SC, SC+) Asians, MENA, Veterans 18-24 (SC+)

## **UHDARDP-II**

- Funder: NIDA (2014-2019)
- Target: Hispanic Heroin users, NIDUs 18-44, IDUs 45 and older

# The Projects

## **SC & SC Plus**

- Goal: Prevention, Early Identification, & Intervention in MH, SA, HIV, HCV
- Type of Research: Individual & Group Interventions, Evaluation

## **UHDARDP-II**

- Goal: Compare VRCET and Relapse Prevention Drug Education on extinction of heroin craving
- Type of Research: RCT, Virtual Reality

# The Projects

## **SC & SC Plus**

- Partners: MCBOs (Houston Area Community Services, Change Happens)
- When partnership initiated: from conceptualization

## **UHDARDP-II**

- Partners: Partners: MCBOs (Houston Area Community Services, Change Happens, Others)
- When partnership initiated: from conceptualization

# The Projects

## **SC & SC Plus**

- Practical Apps:  
Prevention  
Interventions tailored  
to specific  
populations

## **UHDARDP-II**

- Practical Apps: VR  
Extinction Protocol  
that can be used in  
community settings  
with NIDUs and IDUs

# Dissemination Challenges & Solutions

## Challenge

- Front-line providers don't have access to journals and many can't attend conferences

## Solutions

- Webinars, Fact Sheets, Web-based resources, online courses, streaming conferences



# Dissemination Challenges & Solutions

## Challenge

- Skepticism about Virtual Reality; “it’s just gaming”

## Solutions

- Demonstrations in the lab & community; proven strategy

# Dissemination Challenges & Solutions

## Challenge

- Prevention Fatigue (e.g., condom fatigue)

## Solutions

- Keep the message fresh, fun, and relevant (SC, SC+)

# Dissemination Challenges & Solutions

## Challenge

- Researcher mistrust, especially in minority communities
- “They come to us after the proposal is written”
- “Drive-by research: never heard back”
- “They won’t come unless we pay them”

## Solutions

- Form and maintain collaborations **BEFORE** the grant application
- Practitioners on advisory boards
- Share your expertise (i.e., trainings and workshops) and **share your findings**
- Listen to Practitioners

# Building Partnerships: Research to Practice and Practice to Research

- It's not “Evidence-Based Practice” vs. Practice-Based Evidence”, it's **AND**
- Practitioners have great insights into what works and what doesn't—listen to them
- Researchers have great data about what works and what doesn't—listen to them
- Host local “Bridging the Gap” events where providers and researchers work together

# In Conclusion

*We all want the same thing:*

***better client outcomes***

***Let's WORK TOGETHER***

# Thank You!

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