

APPLYING IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE TO IMPROVE CARE FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS: PRACTICAL TOOLS, FRAMEWORKS, AND STRATEGIES

Speakers/Facilitators:

Guillaume Fontaine^{1,2,3}, Seun Falade-Nwulia⁴, Tyler Bartholomew⁵, Alisa Pedrana⁶, Thomas Rudge³, Andrea Torres Robles³, & Natalie Taylor³

¹ McGill University, ² Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, ³ UNSW Sydney, ⁴ Johns Hopkins University, ⁵ University of Miami, ⁶ Burnet Institute

Dr. Guillaume Fontaine, RN, PhD is an Assistant Professor and Director of the RISE³ Lab (Research in Implementation Science for Healthcare Engagement, Effectiveness and Equity) at McGill University, Canada. He co-leads the Implementation Science Pillar in the CIHR Canadian Hepatitis C Research Network, and the Methods Think Tank in the CIHR Canadian HIV/AIDS and STBBIs Clinical Trials Research Network.

Dr. Seun O. Falade-Nwulia, MBBS, MPH is an Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD and Director of the Johns Hopkins Bayview Center for Substance Use and Infectious Disease Care Integration. Her research includes implementation science approaches to improve access to HCV/HIV and drug use treatment for people who use drugs.

Dr. Tyler Bartholomew, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Health Services Research & Policy at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's Department of Public Health Sciences. He is the co-Principal Investigator of the UM IDEA Lab whose goal is to implement, disseminate, educate, and advocate for the health of people who use drugs.

Dr. Alisa Pedrana, BBMedSc, PhD is a Senior Research Fellow, Co-Lead of the Public Health discipline, and Head of the Infectious Diseases Implementation Science Working Group at the Burnet Institute. Her research focuses on the epidemiology of blood-borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections, with an emphasis on integrating health interventions and evaluation to enhance health services.

Thomas Rudge, MA is a PhD Candidate in the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program at the Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney. His research interests include implementation science, and theory-informed program evaluation. His PhD focuses on using and advancing implementation science methodologies to improve the Australian Hepatitis C Point-of-Care Testing Program.

Dr. Andrea Torres Robles, PhD is a Research Associate in the Implementation to Impact (i2i) team at the School of Population Health, UNSW Sydney, specializing in health services research and implementation science. She is currently focused on the implementation science aspect of the HCV Point of Care National Program in Australia.

Dr. Natalie Taylor, PhD is an Associate Professor and Director of the Implementation to Impact (i2i) team at the School of Population Health, UNSW Sydney. As an implementation scientist, she develops, applies, and advances methods to support and study optimal ways to translate evidence into practice, primarily in healthcare settings, to improve care and outcomes for patients.

Background and aims: Despite the availability of evidence-based interventions and models of care, healthcare disparities persist among people who use drugs, particularly in hepatitis C, HIV, and overdose prevention. Implementation science provides a structured approach to improving the uptake and sustainability of evidence-based interventions by seeking to understand what works, for

whom, why and under what circumstances. This workshop aims to equip participants with practical tools and frameworks in implementation science to improve care delivery for people who use drugs.

Description of workshop: This 90-minute interactive workshop will introduce core concepts of implementation science. Participants will engage in practical exercises to apply implementation science frameworks, including to real-world case studies in harm reduction and substance use care.

Methods and format: The workshop will be structured in three didactic sections, with two segments for group application and discussion. *(1) Introduction to Implementation Science (20 min)*, led by Guillaume Fontaine, will cover the fundamentals of implementation science, its relevance in healthcare for people who use drugs, key theories, models, frameworks (TMFs), and implementation outcomes (Proctor's taxonomy). In the first *Group Application (20 min)*, facilitated by Natalie Taylor, Seun Falade-Nwulia, Thomas Rudge and Andrea Torres Robles, participants focus on an implementation challenge, stakeholder mapping, and applying the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) to identify implementation barriers and enablers. *(2) Implementation Strategies and Linking to Outcomes (20 min)*, led by Tyler Bartholomew, will introduce the Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) taxonomy and guide participants in selecting, tailoring and evaluating strategies to support adoption and sustainability of evidence-based interventions. In the second *Group Application (20 min)*, participants will apply implementation strategies to address previously identified barriers, considering feasibility and sustainability. *(3) Recap and Takeaways (10 min)*, led by Alisa Pedrana, will summarize key learnings and include a Q&A to reinforce understanding.

Ideal number and type of delegate, how many people can the workshop accommodate and who is this workshop designed for?

This workshop is designed for researchers, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and community-based practitioners interested in implementing and scaling evidence-based interventions for people who use drugs. The ideal number of participants is 30-40, allowing for meaningful engagement in discussions and activities. The session is suitable for both beginners and those with intermediate knowledge of implementation science.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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