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Accelerating and Expanding Knowledge Transfer in Public Health Settings: Frontiers in PHSSR

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Toward a "rapid-learning system" in public health

Why bring the “open-science” movement to public health?

- Data and information are perishable
- Policy windows don’t respect research timelines
- Subscription fees are barriers for practice settings
- Limited venues for research-practice exchange
- Preliminary findings stimulate collaboration and reveal promising next steps
Origins in the practice-based research networks (PBRN) model

1. Identify Common questions of interest
2. Engaged practice settings
3. Research partner
4. Apply Rigorous research methods
5. Data exchange
6. Analysis & interpretation
7. Translation & application

Identify Common questions of interest

Engaged practice settings

Research partner

Apply Rigorous research methods

Data exchange

Analysis & interpretation

Translation & application
A continuum of interpretation, dissemination, and application mechanisms

Informal discussion
Working papers
Conference meetings & presentations
Peer-reviewed preliminary publications
Peer-reviewed final scientific publications
Evidence syntheses
Policy and practice guidelines
Decision support applications

Media coverage
Blogs & new media
Why peer-reviewed publication?

- Credibility with stakeholders
- Continuous improvement in science
- Filtering mechanism for information users
- Persistent availability to facilitate knowledge accumulation, spread and synthesis
- Academic incentives
The Frontiers Model

- Brief publications
- Preliminary findings from new or ongoing studies
- Inclusion of QI projects alongside traditional studies
- Focus on implications for practice, policy, and/or research communities
The Frontiers Model

- Commentaries from policy and practice stakeholders
- Partnerships with traditional scientific publications
  - American Journal of Preventive Medicine
  - Annual Review of Public Health
Frontiers: overarching principles

- Innovation
- Timeliness
- Quality
- Multi-disciplinary
- Accessibility
- Parsimony
- Utility
Making open-science work: punk rock and hip hop

- Do-it-yourself editing and proofing
- Fast and furious peer review
- Know your audience
- Use the mic to hone your message
- Use the platform to engage your networks
- Show tolerance for dissonance and uncertainty
For More Information

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