

Panel Club 5 – #EIE2021

Investing in Implementation: are funders on the right track?

*Moderator: Barbara van der Linden (ZonMw & EViR Funders Forum) – **Netherlands***

*Panellists: Kelly Dunham (Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute & and EViR Funders Forum); Michael Bowdery (Health and Care Research Wales & EViR Funders Forum); Gera Welker (University Medical Hospital, Groningen) – **U.S.A. / U.K. / Netherlands***

Topic

Increasingly, research funders are investing in implementation through grants provided for implementation projects, implementation research, implementation partnering activities and support of implementation infrastructure and capacity.

Practices vary between funders, but internationally they work together to exchange and further develop successful policies, including those focused on implementation. The moderator and funding agency panellists co-lead [Ensuring Value in Research](#) (EViR), an international community of health research funders founded to reduce waste and increase value in research through shared practice and facilitated learning. Forty-four organizations from sixteen countries have contributed to the Funders' Forum to date.

The focus of the panel will be to debate whether funders implementation practices are meeting the needs of implementation practitioners and researchers. Are current practices and actions of funders (a) making a difference in research use in practice; help to achieve societal research impact; and (c) increase the implementation knowledge base? This debate will include panellists' reflections on funders' practices and attendees' own experience and aim to build a better understanding of how funders can enhance the important work of enhancing research use in practice and policy.

Who is this for (target audience)?

This panel debate is for:

- Implementation researchers and practitioners who wish to gain insights into funders' ambitions and practices.
- Funders who seek reflection from practice and research to optimise their services.

Key discussion points

- Why should research funders invest in implementation?
- How do current funding practices help or hinder successful implementation and robust implementation science?
- Which funding practices / policies would be of benefit for practitioners and researchers and could lead to successful implementation?

