

ECIP Keynote Stephanie Brooks – #EIE2023

Partnership-Building Considerations for Embedding Implementation Science in Health Care

The keynote

In this keynote, I will present a deep dive analysis into the distinctions between those who work to facilitate implementation compared to those who study implementation. These distinctions have implications for partnering and embedding implementation science into real-world change initiatives. Understanding the constraints and needs of both sides of these partnerships will help to ease common challenges to embedding implementation science. Specifically, in considering the different needs of these partners, we can see structures and processes to be leveraged as well as find opportunities to strengthen overall system capacity to encourage and support implementation science partnerships.

This study emerged from the planning for Alberta's Implementation Science Collaborative, an initiative to strengthen implementation in the province, hosted by the Alberta Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research Support Unit. This organization is federally funded by the Canadian Strategy for Patient Oriented Research, to support the creation and implementation of health evidence that meets the expectations and priorities of patients.

Among the key messages that I intend to share with EIE2023 attendees are:

- Many of the ongoing challenges for embedded implementation science partnerships suggest value in further integration between academia and the institutions and systems we aim to support.
- To promote integration, we need cross-sectoral mechanisms and pathways to communicate about implementation collaboration opportunities and share implementation lessons learned with other sectors.
- We also need to address fundamental misalignments between implementation science and practical implementation planning and evaluation. Individual academics and academic institutions need to embrace what it means to be applied researchers. Conversely, institutions that want to be learning organizations need to encourage, enable, and reward implementation science collaborations that support real-world initiatives.

About Stephanie Brooks

Stephanie Brooks is the Program Coordinator for Engagement for the Alberta Strategy for Patient Oriented Research Support Unit. She is an intermediary/knowledge mobilization specialist who manages a program of work dedicated to leveraging implementation science to strengthen Alberta's provincial learning health system. Her work includes facilitating implementation science collaborations, building implementation science capacity, and researching knowledge application models in learning health system contexts.

- Flynn R, Brooks SP, Thomson D, Zimmermann GL, Johnson D, Wasylak T. An Implementation Science Laboratory as One Approach to Whole System Improvement: A Canadian Healthcare Perspective. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2021 Jan;18(23):12681. Accessible here.