National Cancer Institute

About the Science of Research and Technology Branch (SRTB)

Mission: SRTB leads and supports the development and application of innovative research approaches, theories, methods, measures, analytic tools, and technologies to advance social and behavioral science in the context of cancer prevention and control.

Scientific Priorities: Provide support for grants, training programs, workshops, symposia, and conferences on topics such as:

- Theory development, testing and application;
- Measure development and testing, particularly of antecedents to, changes in, and consequences of health behavior;
- Technology development and application;
- Methodological innovation, particularly in analytic approaches;
- Data harmonization and research synthesis; and
- Team science and cross-disciplinary approaches.

ORGANIZATION

- NCI — National Cancer Institute
- DCCPS — Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences
- BRP — Behavioral Research Program
- SRTB — Science of Research and Technology Branch

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Key Initiatives

Grid-Enabled Measures (GEM)

GEM is a dynamic, web-based collaborative tool. It contains behavioral, social science, and other relevant measures organized by theoretical constructs. The goal of GEM is to support and encourage a community of users to build consensus on best measures and to share the resulting harmonized data. Based upon a wiki platform, users contribute to the web site by adding and editing information about measures and associated constructs and providing feedback and ratings on the measures and constructs in GEM.

https://www.gem-measures.org

Team Science Toolkit

The Team Science Toolkit is a "one-stop-shop" for resources to help users conduct, lead, manage, facilitate, or support team-based research. Toolkit resources address the interests of a wide range of team science (TS) stakeholders, such as investigators and community and translational partners; administrators at academic institutions, businesses, and other organizations; funding agency staff; Science of Team Science (SciTS) scholars and evaluators; and those seeking to learn more about TS and the SciTS field. The Toolkit contains three main types of resources: (1) practical tools to enhance, support, or facilitate TS; (2) measures and methods for studying or evaluating TS; and (3) TS-relevant publications and bibliographic citations, including scholarly publications and gray literature (e.g., unpublished technical reports). Additional resources in the Toolkit include background information to the SciTS field, recommended key SciTS resources, and a blog written by a rotating group of invited experts. Capitalizing on the collective knowledge of the growing community of stakeholders interested in team-based research, the Toolkit allows any user to upload and download publicly accessible resources.

https://www.teamsciencetoolkit.cancer.gov

Big Data and Theory Advancement (Big D.A.T.A.)

The goal of the SRTB Big D.A.T.A. initiative is to stimulate new directions in theory development, testing, and integration with the use of big data, dynamic systems modeling, and novel measurement advances. An initial Big D.A.T.A. workshop convened experts in data analytics, systems science, and theory development and testing to address how behavioral scientists can contribute to and leverage big data sources to advance health behavior theory in the context of cancer risk reduction and improved disease outcomes. The workshop highlighted opportunities such as leveraging robust data sets and accompanying models of dynamical systems to substantively test, refine, and improve health behavior theories.

http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/srtb/big-data.html

To learn more about SRTB, please visit:http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/srtb/index.html

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