

**Members of the R2R Mentorship Program Planning Group include:** Ross Brownson, PhD (WU - StL); Eugene Lengerich, VMD, MS (PSU); Bonnie Spring, PhD, ABPP (NU); Helen Meissner, PhD (NIH - OBSSR); Dileep Bal MD, MS, MPH (Hawaii State DOH); and Hope Krebill RN, BSN, MSW (Midwest Cancer Alliance at the University of Kansas School of Medicine).

*Members of the Planning Group will contribute to the manuscripts below:*

**The Promise of Communities of Practices and Mentorship to Translate Research into Practice** (Review; Lead Authors – Cynthia Vinson, MPA; Eugene Lengrich, VMD, MS)

Review the published literature and evaluation reports of communities of practice and mentorship programs. Also included will be perspectives of common elements of such conceptual models, promising approaches to addressing chronic disease, and interpretation of opportunities that may facilitate the translation of research into practice in “real-world” settings.

***Research to Reality*: An Online Community of Practice** (Special Topic: Lead Author Madeline LaPorta, MS)

Research to Reality (R2R) is an online community of practice scheduled to launch by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2011 that engages cancer control practitioners, policy makers, and researchers in an ongoing dialogue around strategies to move evidence-based programs and policies into practice. This community is both an information resource and a forum where members can connect and collaborate with other public health professionals to ask questions, discuss ideas and solutions, share useful resources and tools, and participate in cyber-seminars and other events. The goal of R2R is to build capacity and help foster collaboration within the cancer control field by highlighting successful evidence-based interventions and programs and offering dynamic communication, learning, and mentorship opportunities. This paper will present results from a comprehensive evaluation for the R2R Program including web analytics, usability testing, survey, user feedback, and content analysis of online discussion forums. As of November 2011, there are more than 600 registered members of the R2R community. More than 500 researchers and practitioners register for the monthly cyber-seminars and the site hosts more than 6.500 page views and 4,000 site visits on an average month. The goals, key metrics, sources, and performance measures outlined in the evaluation framework will be described more thoroughly.

**A Mentorship Approach to Building Cancer Control Capacity** (Original Research; Lead Author – Michael Sanchez, MPH, CHES)

In September 2011, The National Cancer Institute Research to Reality (R2R) Mentorship Pilot Program launched with six participating mentor-mentee pairs, and serves as one component of several collaborative efforts to encourage continued discourse and training on the translation of evidence-based cancer control and prevention interventions. The Program focuses on building the capacity of practitioners to navigate within the broad, complex “real world” settings (e.g. inadequate resources, political barriers, and organizational constraints) in which evidence-based decision making and health promotion occurs, by matching experienced public health professionals with community practitioners. Each mentee identified a work-related project that addresses an objective of a Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan as a vehicle for learning and applying skills. Over the course of the 18-month program, the pairs are sharing their experiences and lessons learned on storyboards and have the opportunity to engage with the broader community of public health professionals through the R2R community of practice to extend the program reach. Information from formative research conducted with experienced practitioners and researchers, as well as the guidance of an external planning group, and literature reviews, will be shared identifying key barriers, facilitators, and competencies central to moving ‘research to reality’. A mixed methods evaluation will be reported that assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of a mentorship program to address the evidence-based practice training needs of public health professionals.

**Moving Towards Evidence-Base Cancer Control:  A Tale of Six Comparative Case Studies** (Community Case Studies; Lead Authors – Mentees/Mentors)

*If appropriate, these manuscripts may be divided into six individual case studies or themed case studies (e.g. CRC, faith-based, etc).*

Six mentees were matched with experienced public health professionals. Mentees, with guidance from their mentor, are working on a year-long cancer control and prevention project relevant to their current jobs to learn and applying skills and knowledge of evidence-based public health (EBPH). In addition to the mentor, participants receive ongoing technical assistance and training, virtually and in-person, from the NCI. Mentorship and project components will last for 12-months with an additional 6-month period for evaluation and deliverable-completion. These projects or case studies will describe:

* Implementation of a sun safety education and skin cancer prevention intervention in rural Idaho.
* Development of a clinical program to increase the use of the Public Health Service (PHS) tobacco guidelines by urologists in state hospitals in Louisiana.
* Implementation and evaluation of the Body and Soul program in several New Jersey churches.
* Adaptation of an evidence-based program for the Latino American population entitled “Con Amor Aprendemos” (CAA) translated to “With Love We Learn” for the African American faith-based community.
* Partnership of health care providers and insurance companies to implement a client reminder program for colorectal cancer screening in Michigan.
* Collaboration between insurance providers and small group association plans to adapt and implement a colorectal cancer screening and integrated messaging program to the insured population in rural Montana.

**Invited Commentary** (Lead Author: Larry Green)