Letter from Rinad

Dear PISCE@LDI community,

I hope that this email finds you all as well as possible. It has been a very difficult time for our community, nation, and world. My hope is that our implementation science community will come together to pursue questions at the nexus of implementation science and health equity as we take action towards making our country a more just and equitable place. If you are interested in learning more about this topic, I encourage you to read these articles:

Eslava-Schmalbach, J., Garzón-Orjuela, N., Elias, V., Reveiz, L., Tran, N., & Langlois, E. V. (2019). Conceptual framework of equity-focused implementation research for health programs (EquIR). *International Journal for Equity in Health, 18*, 80.

Woodward, E. N., Matthieu, M. M., Uchendu, U. S., Rogal, S., & Kirchner, J. E. (2019). The health equity implementation framework: Proposal and preliminary study of Hepatitis C virus treatment. *Implementation Science, 14*, 26.

Baumann, A. A., & Cabassa, L. J. (2020). Reframing implementation science to address inequities in healthcare delivery. *BMC Health Services Research, 20*, 190.

This fall, I plan to facilitate a special PISCE@LDI WIP where we discuss these articles and how we can ensure that our implementation science work is imbued with a health equity lens.

Despite the difficulties of the past few months, I've been inspired by the continued growth and success of implementation science at Penn. I'd like to celebrate a few of the accomplishments that I know about – please send me more!

First, Dr. Meghan Lane-Fall, who is a leader at Penn and nationally in implementation science scholarship and capacity building efforts, has been promoted to Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care & Epidemiology. Congratulations Dr. Lane-Fall!

Second, a number of our members have recently been awarded funding to pursue implementation science including a VHA QUERI Center (led by Drs. Bob Burke, Daniel Hall, Rachel Werner, and Judith Long), an AHRQ R18 (Dr. Courtney Benjamin Wolk), an NIMH R21 (Drs. Melanie Pellecchia and David Mandell), and several career development awards (NCI K01 – Dr. Yehoda Martei, NICHD K23 – Dr. Sarah Wood). I'm certain this is not an exhaustive list – please email me if you have recently received funding to pursue implementation science related questions so I can highlight your work! In fact, in conducting a recent landscape review, we have learned that Penn #6 nationally (tied with UNC Chapel Hill) with 25 currently funded implementation science grants in FY 2019. Congrats to all!

Third, we continue to offer opportunities for implementation science training. Our 4th annual Penn Implementation Science, hosted through the Penn MsHP went virtual, offering implementation science training to almost 70 incredibly engaged and attentive attendees this June. Our new MsHP course offering, led by Dr. Meghan Lane-Fall and myself, Advanced Topics in Implementation Science in Health, will be offered virtually this summer and is at capacity. We recently held a summer Works-In-Progress meeting with 27 attendees – our most ever – suggesting that our community is growing and thriving!

I hope to see you all and to hear from you about your successes and achievements.

Be well,
Rinad

Spotlight on PISCE@LDI Member
Kate Rendle, PhD, MSW, MPH
Dr. Rendle is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine & Community Health and Director of Implementation Science at the Penn Center for Cancer Care Innovation. We are very excited to spotlight Dr. Rendle as the PISCE@LDI member of the month for June. In the following conversation with Dr. Rendle, we learn more about her background and interests within implementation science and cancer care delivery.

PISCE@LDI: Please tell us a little bit about yourself.

Dr. Rendle: I am an interdisciplinary behavioral scientist with training in anthropology, epidemiology, cancer prevention and control, and implementation science. I am the Director of Implementation Science at the Penn Center for Cancer Care Innovation (PC3I), the Co-Director of the Mixed Methods Research Lab, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, a full member of the Abramson Cancer Center, and a Senior Fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, all at Penn. My research program integrates diverse quantitative and qualitative methods to improve the quality, value, and implementation of evidence-based care across the care continuum, particularly in cervical and lung cancer screening and care. I have expertise in utilizing diverse qualitative and mixed methods approaches to understand how best to develop and implement novel interventions and care delivery innovations. Outside of work, I enjoy playing with my family, gardening, good food and wine, working out to AC/DC, and escaping to the very small mountain town where I grew up whenever I can.

PISCE@LDI: How did you become interested in implementation science?

Dr. Rendle: My path to implementation science is winding but in hindsight seems like it was always where I was going. I started my doctoral training with the intention of becoming a traditional medical anthropologist, with an interest in gender, health, and technology. Along the way, I had the opportunity to work at a research institute that was embedded in a healthcare system and learn about cancer care delivery and health services research. Much of the work we did focused on understanding how patient-, clinician-, or system-level factors shaped the successful (or failed) delivery of evidence-based cancer care and looked for ways to leverage these factors to increase adoption. While I learned greatly from these experiences, I always felt like a bit of an outsider. It was not until I was a post-doctoral fellow at the NCI that I first heard about the field of implementation science. Immediately, I felt a sense of community with the field and rapidly consumed as much as I could from the literature and its foundational leaders.

PISCE@LDI: What excites you most?

Dr. Rendle: What excites me most about the field of implementation science is a commitment to context and all the complexities it entails. As an anthropologist, I am well-trained to illuminate the complexities of human experience and understand how they shape phenomenon within a specific context, but not necessarily intervene upon these experiences. As an epidemiologist, on the other hand,

I often use methods to isolate these complexities in order to understand the direct effects of a specific exposure or intervention. For me, implementation science is the space where I can do both. Implementation science provides rigorous approaches for both understanding how context shapes the effect of any given strategy and for using context to identify which strategies may be best suited to target contextually-specific determinants and thus likely to be most impactful in a specific setting. I am excited to continue to learn from leaders in the field and advance implementation science in the space of cancer care delivery.

Call for Abstracts
Please consider submitting an abstract to the [13th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health](#), to be held December 14th-16th, 2020. We had 17 accepted presentations and posters last year – let's top that number this year!

Recognizing the importance of this event for the growing D&I community, both AcademyHealth and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are regularly assessing the situation and will be ready to convene the community in a safe and responsible manner — in-person in Washington, D.C. or virtually.

2020 Conference Theme: Dissemination and Implementation Science in a Dynamic, Diverse, and Interconnected World: Meeting the Urgent Challenges of our Time

Focus Areas:
- Behavioral Health
- Building the Future of D&I Science: Training, Infrastructure, and Emerging Research Areas
- Clinical Care Settings: Patient-Level Interventions
- Clinical Care Settings: System-Level Interventions
- Global Dissemination and Implementation Science
- Promoting Health Equity and Eliminating Disparities
- Health Policy Dissemination and Implementation Science
- Models, Measures, and Methods
- Prevention and Public Health

Submission deadline: Tuesday, July 28th, 2020 at 5pm EST

Call for Papers
[Implementation Science to Practice in Healthcare Organization and Management](#)
Special Issue call for papers in [Journal of Health Organization and Management](#)
This Special Issue will be aimed at research that applies implementation science methodology to the health care organization, management and policy context. This is a broad but novel area that will incorporate work from both high, middle and low income countries, highlighting commonalities and differences in health system contexts across countries, including opportunities and capacity to improve system outcomes using implementation science.

Anticipated Themes:
- Methodology and study design for implementing evidence into health care organization, management and policy
- Facilitating evidence-informed health care resource allocation decisions
- Implementation study protocols in health care organization, management and policy

- Implementation of evidence-based health care organization, management and policy in low- to middle-income countries
- Challenges and barriers to running implementation studies in health care organization, management and policy settings

Submission deadline: August 31st, 2020

Training Opportunities

Drs. Meghan Lane-Fall and Danielle Cullen will be offering HPR 611, Implementation Science in Health and Healthcare this summer through the Masters in Health Policy program. The class is filling up so please do encourage interested participants to sign up by contacting [Ms. Kat York].

Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMaP) Region 4 Implementation Science Webinar

Learn more about NCI Implementation Science Programs, Funding Opportunities, and Researcher Experiences featuring:
Gila Neta, PhD, MPP
Program Officer, National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences
Shawna Hudson, PhD
Professor and Research Division Chief, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
Director, Center of Advancing Research and Evaluation or Patient-Centered Care (CARE_PC), Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Co-Director of Community Engagement, NJ Alliance for Clinical and Translational Science (NJ ACTS)
Rachel Shelton, ScD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, Department of Sociomedical Sciences
Associate Director of Community Engagement Core Resource, Columbia's Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research
Associate Director of Research, Lerner Center for Health Promotion

To join this webinar, please register here.

Featured Publication
Bierbaum M, Rapport F, Arnolda G, et al. [Clinicians' attitudes and perceived barriers and facilitators to cancer treatment clinical practice guideline adherence: A systematic review of qualitative and quantitative literature.] *Implementation Science*. May 2020.