

Implementation Science Program

Julius L. Chambers
Biomedical Biotechnology
Research Institute



Location

North Carolina,
United States



Target group

Faculty and students
(undergraduate and
graduate) at North Carolina
Central University (NCCU)



Budget

\$100,000 a year
(2020-2022) with
no-cost extensions
(2023-2025)



SDGs

SDG 3 (target 3.8),
SDG 5 (target 5.5) and
SDG 10 (targets
10.2 and 10.3)

Synopsis

Strengthening a pipeline of implementation scientists to accelerate the translation of evidence-based interventions into underserved communities.

Program description

A persistent “translation gap” exists between scientific discovery and routine clinical care: while timelines vary, evidence uptake can take many years and is often slower for conditions affecting under-resourced populations.

To bridge this gap, the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical and Biotechnology Research Institute (BBRI) at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) conducts multidisciplinary and cross-institutional research focused on health issues that disproportionately affect minority and underserved populations. The Implementation Science Education and Training (ISET) program, funded by the Elsevier Foundation, supports new and early-stage investigations focused on health disparities research by providing graduate students with training and mentoring in implementation science (IS), supporting the submission of successful IS-focused grants, addressing IS gaps in health disparity research and developing a culture of IS across NCCU at all levels.



ELSEVIER

Advancing human progress together

Goals

- Increase the number of health researchers who are conducting implementation science research and dissemination.
- Organize outreach and networking activities within the NCCU community.
- Develop faculty expertise in implementation science and expand capacity at NCCU.

Activities and milestones

- Finalized pilot projects and completed a qualitative program evaluation with fellows. Examples include:
 - Physical Activity Opportunities for African American Women (Dr. Amy Linder and Dr. Karen Webb)
 - Adoption of Nutrition Guidelines in Food Pantries and Their Impact on Diet Quality and Nutrition Security of Children and Adolescents from Low-Income Families in North Carolina: A Mixed Methods Study (Dr. Lamis Jomaa and Dr. Kimberly Powell)
- Organized outreach and networking activities within the NCCU community
- Supported final data analysis and publications from pilot studies
- Advanced dissemination efforts, including conference abstracts and peer-reviewed publication submissions
- Conducted evaluation interviews and supported data collection for ongoing projects in physical activity and nutrition/food pantry research

Looking ahead

As this funding cycle concludes, this program remains committed to building implementation science capacity at NCCU and strengthening the infrastructure needed to reduce health disparities. Implementation science frameworks are now embedded in new grant submissions, pilot initiatives and community engagement efforts across NCCU.

BBRI will build on the partnerships established with community leaders, health organizations and research institutions to ensure that evidence-based interventions are translated into practice more rapidly and equitably. By strengthening faculty expertise, mentoring the next generation of scholars and reinforcing community infrastructure, BBRI is advancing a durable culture of translational science that extends well beyond this partnership.



Impact at a glance



16

Implementation Science Fellows supported across cohorts.



Delivered 1 peer-reviewed journal publication and presented 3 conference papers



Community infrastructure strengthened to support health disparities research and implementation.

“This Implementation Science focused effort has done more than fund research. It has helped in strengthening the research culture at NCCU.”

Dr. Deepak Kumar

Associate Provost and Dean of Research and Sponsored Programs, North Carolina Central University