



## Global Implementation Society Newsletter

### July 2021, Issue #3

*Promoting the development and integration of effective implementation, improvement, and scaling practices in human service settings to improve outcomes for children, families, individuals, and communities worldwide.*

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is a peculiar energy that can emerge from living through extraordinary times, which will certainly be a defining factor for the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Often, it feels as though we are stuck in limbo between stasis and progress, as societies across the globe continue to struggle towards the perpetual goal of the past 15 months – stopping the spread of Covid-19. While our most immediate goal has not changed in almost a year and a half, our understanding of what awaits us beyond the horizon of the pandemic continues to evolve.

There is no doubt that the experience of the past 15 months will have a lasting impact on the organisation of human societies. The question is, what role will each of us play in shaping that post-Covid reality? And, for GIS, how can we ensure that the potential of implementation science to facilitate meaningful change is not squandered, so that whatever comes next is characterised by equity, agility, collaboration, and curiosity?

These are not easy questions to answer, but part of the answer must come from the work we do within our own organisations to define and operationalise these values.

Equity is not something we can wait to develop naturally – it must be cultivated with intention throughout our organisations, so that it is a central aspect of our policy, philosophy, and behaviour.

Agility is more than a buzzword – in a world characterised by unpredictability and

change, it is an absolutely essential aspect of our work and lives. We must be able to incorporate feedback, experience, and evidence into new approaches fluidly and transparently.

Collaboration not only results in more effective solutions to difficult problems, but it is a critical approach to work if we are to achieve our goal of advancing equity across sectors.

Curiosity goes well beyond our ability to ponder and daydream – indeed, a sense of curiosity can even predict an individual's ability to creatively solve problems.

Amidst the pandemic, there is a heightened sense of urgency for all that we do, and so it should be for the operationalisation of the above values. It is our collective responsibility to embed these values deep within the foundations of our organisations and communities if we want to see them come to define the systems and structures of our world. In other words, the pursuit of these values – equity, agility, collaboration, and curiosity – should not be a side project or an organisational development goal. They should come to permeate all that we do in the work of implementation science.

As GIS continues to make progress towards engaging with a truly global implementation science community, as glimpsed at our [virtual conference](#) this past May, with 381 individuals from 41 countries represented, there is still further progress to be made. We know that the more voices heard in our discussions, and the wider the collective experience brought to our table, the more effective and impactful we will be as a society.

The launch of the official journal of GIS, Global Implementation Research and Applications, is another step in the right direction. We hope this journal will allow for a conversation that [more fully reflects](#) the diversity of experiences related to the application of implementation science and its ongoing evolution of our work, lives, and communities.

As you are reading this, odds are you have something to share, learn, and contribute to GIS. Your perspective has never been more important as we work to promote implementation science, enhanced by our collective efforts to strive to create a more equitable and responsive world. We urge you to take part in our ongoing conversation if you haven't already, so that your expertise, perspective, and experience can inform our way forward.

And thank you for all that you do to improve your community, organisation, and world.

**Melissa Van Dyke**, Board President  
Global Implementation Society



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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM GLOBAL IMPLEMENTATION CONFERENCE 2021 (MAY 3-6)—EQUITY IN FOCUS

Global Implementation Society (GIS) is expected to lead the way in scaling policies and practices that address and expand equity and support inclusion and diversity. As an organization representing researchers, practitioners and policy makers, the impact our members have on implementing practices that are effective is enormous.

Not only did GIS make ***An Equity-First Approach to Implementation*** the theme for the 2021 conference, but GIS has intentionally made equity an important measure of advancement and a goal for all members. The challenges we all face to drive equity in our increasingly diverse and global world are evident. So, it must be our commitment to achieve equity through all means possible: **research, education, dialogue, standards setting and more.**

Towards this end, we invite our network to continue to provide insight, comments and dialogue on the topic of equity and the sessions we enjoyed during the 2021 Conference. GIS members have full access to these sessions all year long.

If you are not a member, [now is a great time to join](#). Not only will you receive access to these stimulating sessions, but you will become part of the dialogue and community that is leading the way in advancing equity in all environments.

*It is only through our **global work, together** that we will be able to make lasting, impactful change!*

### KEYNOTE FROM 2021 CONFERENCE

- **An Equity-first Approach to Implementation: Leading Systems and Policy Change** - Michael Marmot, PhD, Nhan Tran, Somava Saha, MD MS

The keynote session discussed an equity-first approach to implementation highlighting diverse examples from leading experts in health equity research, practice, and policy advocacy. Dr. Nhan Tran will moderated the session and highlighted opportunities for better integrating equity into the field of implementation science, including the need to de-implement inequitable systems. Sir Michael Marmot discussed his work on using research demonstrating the scale and impact of inequity to advocate for policy change at national and international levels. Dr. Somava Saha's described her work on partnership building with communities that have lived experience with inequity to transform healthcare systems and improve health and well-being across a range of geographic regions.

## SESSIONS ON EQUITY

- **The Best of Both Worlds: Using Quality Improvement and Implementation Science Together to Create and Implement the Right Interventions for Your Context** - Caitlin Williams, Rohit Ramaswamy, PhD, Sheila V. Patel, PhD
- **Exploring Leadership and the Role of Leaders in Integrating the Science and Practice of Implementation into Organisations' Systems** - Claire Burns, MSc, Eleanor McClorey
- **Strategies for Developing and Implementing Evidence-Informed Policy to Improve Health Equity** - Donna Shelley, MD, MPH, Fadi El-Jardali, PhD, Max Crowley
- **A National Initiative: Advancing the Racial Equity Journey using Design Thinking Mindsets and Methodologies** - Melvin Jackson, MPH, Rumana Rabbani, MHA, PhD Student

## STORYBOARDS ON EQUITY

- **Designing Implementation Infrastructure from an Equity Perspective** - Alissa Rausch, Catasha Williams; Sherri Williams
- **Harnessing Implementation Science for Health Equity** - Obidimma Ezezika and Nicole Lim
- **Implementation Teams' Perceptions of Collaboration with a Racial Equity Lens: Results from Diverse Stakeholders Applied to Improvement in Implementation Stages** - April Diaz, Nancy Kepple, Cheryl Holmes, Linda Banda, Juliana Carlson, Becci Akin
- **Infusing Equity and Inclusivity in Assessments of Community Capacity to Scale-up Effective Programs** - Rebecca Roppolo, Jenna Armstrong, Will Aldridge
- **Lifting Up Equitable Stakeholder Voice: Considerations for**

**Implementation Support Practice** - Devon Minch, Christina Disalvo, Jessica Reed, Will Aldridge

- **Pursuing Equity and Justice in Implementation: Learning from the Collective Process of Addressing Racial Disparities in Child Welfare**  
- Kelechi Wright, Sarah McCall, Becci Akin
- **Using an Equity Lens in Workforce Development Systems for Implementation Support Providers** - Jessica Reed, William Aldridge, Robin Jenkins, Renee Boothroyd
- **Working with Implementation Teams to Promote Gender and Racial Equity: Actionable Insights from a Multi-Systems Change Demonstration Project** - Becci Akin, Cheryl Holmes, Juliana Carlson

These sessions and storyboards are just a sample of the discussion and activity that is taking place among members and leaders involved with GIS. Take time to participate – learn – share!

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## **OPPORTUNITIES: IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE & TRANSLATION FELLOWSHIPS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Applications are invited for the following Future Health Research and Innovation Fund (FHIR) programs:

### **Implementation Science Fellowships 2021**

Implementation science seeks to understand the system-level facilitators and barriers to implementing evidence into practice and identify evidence-based approaches to promote translation. The Implementation Science Fellowships program seeks to identify potential pathways and strategies, using implementation science, for the successful implementation of research findings into policy and practice. [Guidelines, conditions & application form available, here.](#)

### **Translation Fellowships 2021**

The Translation Fellowships program seeks to support translational research to increase translational research expertise and capacity in WA and facilitate the translation of research findings into policy and/or practice.

These Fellowships will support high-quality fellows and research programs that address a contemporary challenge or need faced by the WA public health system, through collaboration and partnership with WA Health Service Providers, in the following two streams:

- Aboriginal health issues
- Country and regional WA health issues.

[Guidelines, conditions & application form available, here.](#)

One Implementation Science Fellowship and one Translation Fellowship will be made available in each of the above streams. The value of each Fellowship is \$200,000 per annum for three years, which may be used for salary and research costs. These programs are funded by the [Future Health Research and Innovation \(FHIR\) Fund \(external site\).](#)

The application period closes **1.00pm, Tuesday 31 August 2021.**

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## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



**Chair:** Aaron Sawyer

The committee is planning ahead for the next Global Implementation Conference in 2023, aiming to balance research, practice, and policy presentations going forward, along with providing a platform to as many qualified voices as possible.

The need to emphasize a respect for cultural diversity and geological differences is at the heart of strategic planning. The committee notes that, like GIS as a whole, a major goal is to promote and establish coherent and collaborative approaches to implementation practice, science and policy.

The committee has set a clear goal of getting new implementation scientists to the table. Given how fast implementation science is growing, an effort must be made to avoid losing voices in the changing field.

## STANDARDS & COMPETENCIES



**Co-Chairs:** Paul Tortolani & John Ovretveit

A second edition of the [GIS Competencies for Implementation Facilitators](#) is in development and under review, and the committee is currently discussing the development of a related certification.

The committee agreed to compile a list of parameters, criteria and measures related to equity which can be actively tracked throughout the development and implementation of a certification pathway.

Understanding the importance of standards for a global organization, the committee acknowledges the need for adaptation—the group is consistently striving to make sure the standards of GIS are up-to-date with the needs of implementation facilitators and communities around the globe.

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & RESOURCES



**Co-Chairs:** Jenice Pizzuto & Marlys Merrill

The Professional Learning & Resources (PLR) Committee aims to build a strategic, comprehensive PL plan that aligns to the board goals and includes regional networks. This would require increasing knowledge and capacity, incorporating an equity framework, facilitating skill development aligning with competencies, and developing a repository for resources and learning.

Committee members have discussed addressing these goals through sequential planned learning events and cohort learning, allowing GIS members to engage directly with experts and material and creating an environment of advancement and learning.

While this is a large goal, with so many committed members around the world, there is no question this is possible! Through PLR, global organization and communication has become a realistic expectation and are only becoming more streamlined and efficient.

## **MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS**

**Co-Chairs:** Bindu Patel & Janey McMillen

A goal has been set to ensure the development of asynchronous discussion and collaboration on a global scale. The committee aims to emphasize global / multi-sectoral support in all activities and through the GIS website. The committee is particularly interested in ensuring maximum access and equitable distribution of information and recognition of work.

The committee will also review processes for future newsletters to ensure regularity of communications to members and nonmembers and the dissemination of the best information from the best sources to the widest audience. The committee plans for future newsletters to vary in topic and format.

The goal of the committee is to grow communications and expand dialogue across all sectors and practices to ensure maximum participation, representation and recognition. Implementation science is essential to scale practices that work – the more who know, use and promulgate this, the better for all!

# GIRA: JOURNAL COMMITTEE



**Chair:** Rosalyn Bertram

## SPECIAL ISSUE

A 2022 Special Issue of Global Implementation Research and Applications (GIRA) will address the following question:

*Amidst rapid social change, is implementation science shaping adaptations and innovations in child and family serving systems and services?*

For this special issue, we invite abstracts from any discipline, global region, sector or setting for manuscripts that present case studies, commentaries, policy or research notes (see [Bertram, et al., 2021, Implementation lessons for research and practice. Global Implementation Research and Practice, 1\(2\), 65-69.](#)), as well as conceptual or research-informed perspectives and papers.

**Submit manuscript proposal abstracts (no more than 500 words) by 08/31/21.**

- By **9/30/21**, editors will select and invite manuscript submissions.
- Invited manuscripts must be submitted for peer review by **2/28/22**.

[Download guidelines, here.](#)

## COMMITTEE UPDATE

The GIRA Committee Associate editors remain focused on what could be done to improve the quality of the journal and its notability and accessibility. Editors meet monthly to review manuscripts, strengthen submissions and identify areas where the process can be streamlined.

Along with publishing and promoting the journal, the committee most recently discussed the potential benefits of developing course content on peer review.

Through a multi-module course on peer review, the group outlined the benefits would not only help improve reviews, but could also help attract more reviewers. As more attention is drawn to the growing field of implementation science, an increase in accessible and clear education can only stand to help bring bright people and perspectives to the table.

## GIS SUPPORT STAFF UPDATE



### We have new support staff!

We are ecstatic to announce that GIS is now working with dedicated support that will facilitate the work of volunteer leadership—summarized in the updates, above—and ensure greater consistency in communicating about that excellent work.

If you're receiving this email, you can expect to hear more often and more regularly from the Global Implementation Society!

GIS support staff is currently working behind the scenes to improve the GIS member experience in addition to collaborating with the GIS Board of Directors and committee leaders to make new things possible and increase the value of GIS membership.

We want you to know you have a direct line to GIS staff—in fact, you can always reply directly to our emails to get in touch with us.

### Committee Questions? Reach out!

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions that a committee should hear, you can feel free to contact a GIS staff member directly (reply to this email) to talk about any of the previously mentioned committees and upcoming initiatives.

You can also call the office at +1.804.639.9213.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **Non-GIS Event**

#### The 2021 Global Evidence Summit

Oct 5th - Oct 8th, 2021

The 2021 Global Evidence Summit will take place in Prague and be hosted by the Czech National Centre for Evidence-Based Healthcare and Knowledge Translation (CEBHC-KT) and Masaryk University.

Its main theme '**Using Evidence. Improving Lives**' aims to advance the use of reliable research evidence in addressing some of the world's most serious health and social challenges across health, education, social justice, the environment, and climate change. [Click here to learn more.](#)

**Have an upcoming event you want GIS to share? *Reply to this email!***

## MEMBER NOTES



- Member of the GIS Board of Directors, **Timothy A. Carey** has recently published:
  - Carey, T. A., Tai, S. J., & Griffiths R. (2021). *Deconstructing Health Inequity: A Perceptual Control Theory Perspective*. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.
  - Carey, T. A., & Gullifer, J. (Eds.) (2021). *Handbook of Rural, Remote, and very Remote Mental Health*. Singapore: Springer Publishing.
- A tribute to and interview with GIS member and leader **Dean Fixsen**, recorded for GIC 2021, is [available on-demand on the GIS website](#), featuring a number of GIS leaders and members!

**See YOUR work in next newsletter's member notes - *reply to this email!***

## **Not yet a member? Join the Global Implementation Society!**

Implementation practice and science are developing rapidly in human services in nations around the globe. The Global Implementation Society (GIS) advances implementation practice and science by supporting members and by directly undertaking projects to develop implementation as a profession based on knowledge and standards for practice.

Membership in the Global Implementation Society joins you to a community of professionals who are developing and using new and better ways of providing human services (implementation practice) and who are generating knowledge about how best to do this (implementation research, implementation policy). Members represent a variety of service sectors, have different professional and disciplinary backgrounds, and are from high- and low-resource settings across the globe.

### **UNPARALLELED MEMBER BENEFITS »**

**LEARN MORE**



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