



**FORUM ON INVESTING IN YOUNG CHILDREN GLOBALLY (IYCG)**  
**WORKSHOP #8**

**MOVING FROM EVIDENCE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS:  
STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Held in partnership with Grand Challenges Canada, SickKids Toronto, and the  
Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development

Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning  
686 Bay Street Toronto, ON, M5G 0A4  
June 23, 2016

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Many discussions on early childhood focus on small or model programs that are showing promising results. Less attention is paid to how to scale up those programs to serve much larger populations. However a program that serves 100 children is vastly different from one that can serve 100,000 children reliably over time. Using research on what works to reach whole populations requires understanding the challenges of implementation to scale and applying the best knowledge to help ensure effective service delivery to large populations over many years.

Similarly, many discussions on early childhood focus on the supply side of the equation – the design of optimal programs, effective curriculum, appropriate workforce training, etc. Far less attention has been paid to the demand side of this equation – how to build public will and motivate policy- and decision-makers to scale up proven programs to reach large numbers of children; how to maintain funding for those programs over time; as well as continuous quality improvement to ensure that large-scale services are indeed having the effect that was expected based on the smaller programs.

Therefore, the two focus areas for this workshop are: 1) the science of implementing programs and practices that improve outcomes for children birth to age 8 at scale; and 2) how to translate evidence to action among policymakers and the public to finance and support large scale implementation of these programs, practices, and policies.

Implementation science, including the science of how to take proof of concept intervention research that integrates programming across one or more areas supporting child well-being (e.g., health, education, nutrition, social protection) and scale it to a larger population, is important to understand for bridging research to practice. Multiple issues that are key to successful implementation in real world settings include: fidelity to the model, maintaining significant impacts at scale, cultural context, and workforce training to ensure quality at scale, among others.

Implementing research-based programs with diverse populations such as indigenous communities and highly mobile or vulnerable populations are of particular interest in the context of implementation science as it relates to taking more generalized knowledge and implementing

programs with specific populations. Our sixth workshop, “Reaching and Investing in Children at the Margins,” noted the particular scientific and ethical challenges associated with the frequent exclusion of children with disabilities from individual studies, systematic reviews, and programs. The limited and limiting scientific expediency of such practices needs reconsideration in light of the rights of all children to participate in and benefit from societies’ investments in research and program dissemination and implementation. Special considerations related to cultural context and values, and attention to assets in these communities will be explored.

Methods for translating evidence to action among policymakers and the public to bring science to practice at scale will be discussed, as these are the larger contexts for bridging research to practice in local communities. Presenters will discuss how decisions are made to invest in and scale evidence-based interventions and programming for young children and their caregivers, and will highlight some examples of barriers and challenges to bridging science to policy in diverse contexts. The costs and economics of translating the science into practice on the ground are important components to these policy discussions and will be explored as well.

An ad hoc planning committee will plan and conduct an interactive public workshop featuring presentations and discussions that examine motivations for policy- and decision-makers to implement policies as well as and the technical considerations for implementing programs that invest in the health, education, nutrition, and social protection of young children.

The results of the workshop will inform policy and practice in the region as well as globally. The committee will identify specific topics to be addressed, develop the agenda, select and invite speakers and other participants, and moderate the discussions. A summary of the presentations and discussions at the workshop will be prepared by a designated rapporteur in accordance with institutional guidelines. Communications and dissemination products will be drawn from workshop proceedings.

### **Planning Committee**

**Zulfiqar Bhutta**, SickKids Toronto

**Vesna Kutlesic**, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

**Albert Lee**, Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Stephen Lye**, Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development

**Dominique McMahon**, Grand Challenges Canada

**Alan Pence**, University of Victoria

**Beverly Pringle**, National Institute of Mental Health

**Eduardo Queiroz**, Fundação Maria Cecília Souto Vidigal

**Karlee Silver**, Grand Challenges Canada

**Lorraine Sherr**, University College London

**Sara Watson**, ReadyNation

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**Thursday, June 23, 2016**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**8:30-9:00**      **Welcome Remarks**

- **Karlee Silver**, Vice President – Programs, Grand Challenges Canada
- **Stephen Lye**, Executive Director, Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development
- **Zulfiqar Bhutta**, Founding Director, Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, Aga Khan University and Robert Harding Inaugural Chair in Global Child Health, The Hospital for Sick Children

- Overview of iYCG
- Brief discussion of themes from *Lancet* ECD series
- **Joan Lombardi**, Senior Advisor, Bernard van Leer Foundation
  - Brief discussion of new *Early Childhood Matters* issue

**9:00-10:00 Keynote Session**

**Moderator: TBD**

- **Generating global political priority for early childhood development: challenges and opportunities**
  - **Jeremy Shiffman**, Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University
- **Implementing programs to promote the wellbeing of indigenous populations in Canada**
  - **Suzanne Stewart**, Associate Professor of Indigenous Healing in Counseling Psychology, University of Toronto

**10:00-11:15 Session 1: Implementation Science: methodology, measurement, and sustaining impact**

**Objectives:** This session will focus on the methods that influence the integration of evidence-based interventions into practice settings in populations.

**Moderator: Zulfiqar Bhutta**, Founding Director, Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, Aga Khan University and Robert Harding Inaugural Chair in Global Child Health, The Hospital for Sick Children

- **Melanie Barwick**, Head – Child and Youth Mental Health Research Unit, SickKids
- **Mark Tomlinson**, Professor, Stellenbosch University
- **Radley (Chris) Sheldrick**, Research Associate Professor, Tufts Medical Center

**11:15-11:45 Break**

**11:45-1:00 Session 2: Taking research to scale**

**Objectives:** What were some methodological challenges to scaling? Who were key players to making it work? What were the unique opportunities in your context/situation that facilitated scaling or barred scaling? Did the model change at scale? Did you maintain impact? What were the workforce issues? How did the cultural context affect scaling?

**Moderator: Stephen Lye**, Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development

- **Sonia Sharma**, Senior Manager – Construction Sites Day Care, and Direct Delivery, Mobile Creches
- **Gisela Álvarez Valdés**, Assistant Professor, Julián Grimau University Polyclinic, Havana
- **Susan Walker**, Professor of Nutrition and Director – Tropical Medicine Research Institute, The University of the West Indies

**1:00-2:00**      **Lunch**

**2:00-2:20**      *The Beginning of Life* (screening of 12-minute video)

- **Eduardo Queiroz**, Executive Director, Fundação Maria Cecília Souto Vidigal

**2:20-3:30**      **Session 3: The role of research in policy decision-making**

**Objectives:** What are best buys for policymakers? What kind of research moves policy to action? What is the most effective way for researchers to convey their knowledge to policymakers, and how can policymakers convey the urgent questions they want researchers to answer? What are some barriers that prevent decision-makers from implementing programs based on good science?

**Moderator: Karlee Silver**, Grand Challenges Canada

- **Nathalie Charpak**, Director, Kangaroo Foundation
- **Martina Baye**, Coordinator – National Multisectoral Program for Combating Maternal, Newborn & Child Mortality, Ministry of Public Health Cameroon
- **Leonid Lecca**, Executive Director, Socios en Salud
- **TBD**

**3:30-4:00**      **Break**

**4:00-5:15**      **Session 4: How to translate evidence to action among policymakers and the public**

**Objectives:** Identify successful strategies for motivating policymakers and the public to take action. Particular attention will be paid to the costs and economic return on investment; making the child development case using science; and the role of messaging and communications. Specifically, speakers will consider varying effective messages such as: the importance of early childhood investments for the current workforce, future workforce, personal well-being, civic life, and better use of government expenditures.

**Moderator: Eduardo Queiroz**, Executive Director, Fundação Maria Cecília Souto Vidigal

- **Wafaie Fawzi**, Chair – Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

- **Sara Watson**, Global Director, Ready Nation
- **Jane Bertrand**, Program Director, Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation
- **Michelle Gagnon**, President, Palix Foundation

**5:15**      **Closing remarks**

**5:30**      **Adjourn**