

# Translating scientific knowledge for policy and stakeholder audiences

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# Preview

- Translation: what is it?
  - Related to development of an "evidence" or "knowledge" base
- Our approaches
- Proposed topics
- Join us!

# Research translation in health sciences

- Research translation receiving greater attention in health sciences
- Complement to essential basic science research
- Consistent with mission of public health research

# Research translation in medicine

- Research to develop findings into treatments
  - Development and testing of drugs
  - Clinical trials
- Systematic reviews or meta analysis of findings to identify best practices
  - Increasingly institutionalized
  - "Cochrane" reviews
  - Methods are known

# Translation in Public Health

- Emphasis on “evidence based” policy
  - Requires systematic assessment of knowledge at various steps
  - More difficult in public health than medicine
- “Knowledge base” may be better

# Translation in SBRP

- Has focused on translating results from individual studies
- Research briefs are primary mechanism

# Our approaches are broader

1. Direct translation of immediate research findings
2. Analyses of implications of key lines of research
3. Communication between experts in technical disciplines and policy/stakeholder audiences on interpretation of science in policy contexts
4. Assess gaps between scientific knowledge and practice

# Direct translation of findings

- Focus on why and results
  - Not methods -> peer review does that
  - Explain why it matters
- Conversational approaches
  - Streaming short talks
  - Pod casts

# Analyses of lines of research

- Key lines of research for which we have competence
  - Not individual studies
- Contribute to development of appropriate methods to respond to demand for "evidence base"
- Iterative process
  - consultation with audience

# Interpretation of results for policy

- Many issues involved in interpretation of results for policy
- Limited understanding on both sides
  - Policy makers: understanding of research
  - Researchers: understanding policy context and why questions have to be answered
- Fruitful to engage both in joint discussion
  - What is relevant, how can it best be presented?
  - Information needed but not available

# Gaps between research & practice

Most complex

Does practice reflect current knowledge?

Maybe not

Environmental health hasn't changed much  
in 20 years but knowledge has

# Proposed topics

- Use of biomonitoring data in environmental public health surveillance and policy (*see poster*)
- Implications of findings regarding susceptibility and interactions of genetic and environmental factors
- Uses of data from "omics" technologies in policy decisions

# Join us

- We welcome your comments and suggestions
- Now or later
- About anything

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