

Our Work

Since the initiation of the program, the IHP has recruited and hired a diverse group of professionals to pursue RIA's goals. The staff has analyzed more than 150 current research projects and selected a handful of the most suitable for the IHP's first KT efforts.



The RIA staff also created a new axial model to illustrate the implementation of KT. It takes into account the varying scenarios that KT brokers will face in their efforts to conduct translations, then recommends different levels of action and engagement.

Web 2.0 ... and Beyond

RIA has also just launched KTEExchange.org, the first comprehensive Web portal dedicated to KT. KTEExchange.org is the central repository for all things KT-related, including best practices, links to relevant institutions and the latest KT articles and research, a worldwide calendar of events, an electronic bibliography, current KT funding sources, and much more. The site also offers social networking tools, the first site of its kind to do so.



Contact Us

The Institute for Health Policy Research Into Action

1200 Herman Pressler
Houston, Texas 77030
713/500-9318
IHP@uth.tmc.edu
www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/ihp/

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THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Institute for Health Policy



How It All Began



Faced with serious risks to health, rising costs and an overburdened health care delivery system, the public should be able to rely on its universities to provide new solutions to health problems. Despite investments in premier academic health science centers, little attention has been given to getting the research findings produced by these institutions to those who often need them the most – the public, policymakers and practitioners – in a form that they can use.



In 2006, the University of Texas School of Public Health's Institute for Health Policy (IHP) received an award from the ExxonMobil Foundation to meet this challenge. The award enables the IHP to pursue new avenues in the field of

knowledge translation (KT) through the creation of a new program, Research Into Action (RIA).

Research Into Action is dedicated to exploring and developing the best ways to transfer the incredible volume of high-quality public health research into the public sphere, where it can have the most impact and do the most good.



The History of Knowledge Translation



The concept that we term “knowledge translation” can be traced to the agricultural extension services operated by land grant universities at the beginning of the 20th century. The extension services relied on face-to-face communication to disseminate agricultural research for the benefit of farmers and ranchers. Over the course of the 20th century, various disciplines, including engineering, management and organizational behavior, and education developed their own KT models. In the past 20 years, nursing, medicine, and public health have followed suit, implementing KT as it relates to health care. In the 1990s, the United States government began increasing its requirements for accountability in funded research. Organizations such as the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research became early promoters of KT in health care. In 2000, the Canadian government formalized KT in grant-making with the chartering of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

