National Cancer Institute

Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences:

Behavioral Research Program

THE EVALUATION OF LARGE INITIATIVES (ELI): TOWARD A SCIENCE OF TEAM SCIENCE

http://intranet.cancer.gov/dccps/eval_initiative/index.html

Historically, science has been evaluated by assessing the scientific quality of the work, largely through the peer review process. With the emergence of large transdisciplinary science, however, there is a need to assess a broader range of outcomes, including the antecedents, processes, and outcomes of transdisciplinary collaborations, as well as the impact of such research on public health, and policy. The Evaluation of Large Initiatives (ELI) projects at the National Cancer Institute was undertaken to address these issues. The ELI team, including expert evaluation and team science consultants, staff, and scientists at NCI, work together with the investigators of various transdisciplinary initiatives toward a better understanding of the collaborative processes and outcomes of team science.

***The Science of Team Science** is a rapidly emerging field concerned with understanding and managing circumstances that facilitate or hinder the effectiveness of large-scale research, training, and translational initiatives.*

MISSION:

- Evaluate comprehensively and empirically the assumptions and ideas about team science
- Develop frameworks and models for future evaluations of large-scale NCI research, training, and translational initiatives
- Systematically evaluate large-scale transdisciplinary initiatives as a basis for improving those programs and establishing an empirically grounded science of team science
- Provide research consultation to NCI grantees, intramural scientists, and administrators on the evaluation of transdisciplinary team initiatives

EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS:

- Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Centers
- Transdisciplinary Research on Energetics and Cancer
- Centers of Excellence in Cancer Communication Research
- Centers for Population Health and Health Disparities

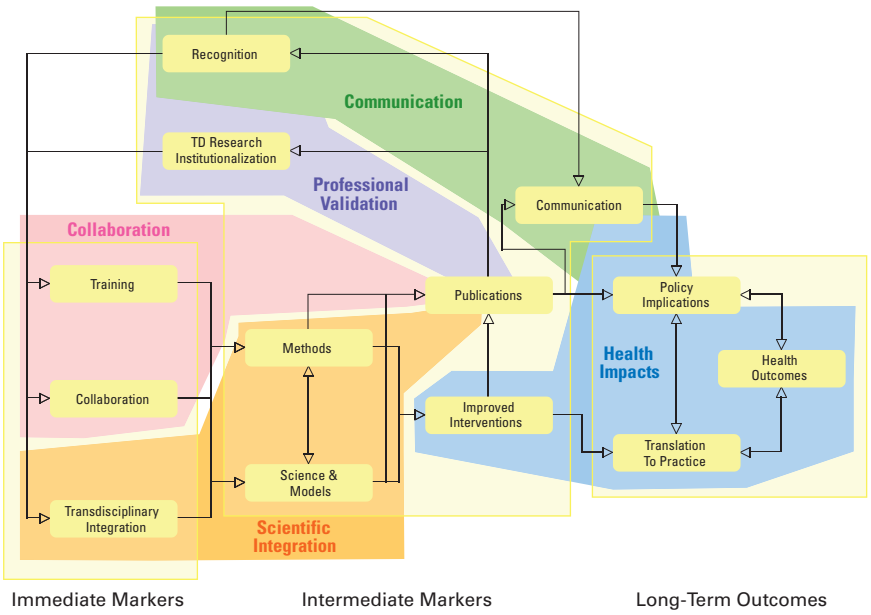
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

EVALUATION FRAMEWORKS:

Logic Model for TTURC-I Evaluation

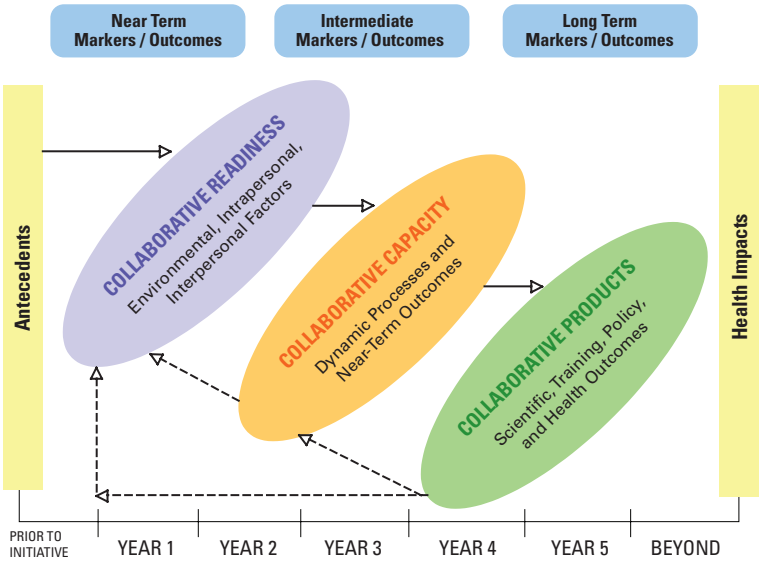
(Trochim et al., 2008)



The conceptual framework developed to guide the evaluation of the near, mid, and long term expected outcomes of the TTURC initiative.

Conceptual Model for TREC Collaborative Initiatives

Hall, et. al. (in press)



The conceptual framework to guide the assessment of TREC cross-disciplinary collaboration antecedents, processes, and health outcomes across duration of the initiative.

EVALUATION CONFERENCE, RESOURCES, AND FUNDING

http://dccps.nci.nih.gov/brp/scienceteam/index.html

Klein, J. T. (2003). History of Transdisciplinary Research: Contexts of definition, theory, and the new discourse of problem solving. *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems*, U. K.

Roesenfield, P. L. (1992). The potential of transdisciplinary research for sustaining and extending linkages between the health and social sciences. *Social Science and Medicine*, 35, 1343-1357.

Rhoten, D., & Parker, A. (2004). Risks and rewards of an interdisciplinary research path. *Science*, 306, 2046.

Stokols, D. (2006). Toward a science of transdisciplinary action research. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. 38, 63-77.