

**Society for Prevention Research
26th Annual Meeting
Washington, DC**

Pre-Conference Workshop V

Date: Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Time: 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Developing successful international prevention research

Sponsored by the SPR International Committee and the ECPN

Organizers:

Jeremy Segrott, Ph.D., Cardiff University, Wales and Moshe Israelashvili, Ph.D. Tel Aviv University.

Presenters: Moshe Israelashvili, Ph.D. Tel Aviv University and Amanda J. Nguyen, Ph.D., University of Virginia

Description:

The key purpose of this workshop is to assist participants to develop and refine international prevention research collaboration plans. International prevention research is increasingly recognized as a key dimension in the development of high quality Prevention Science. It facilitates the exchange of important contextual knowledge on epidemiology, cultural and socio-political considerations, situational circumstances and intervention design, which might otherwise remain in national silos. As international prevention research enables interventions to be adapted and disseminated to countries around the world, it provides important opportunities for prevention researchers to develop new perspectives and address questions that would not be possible within solely intra-national research groups.

However, prevention researchers seeking to develop international prevention research face a number of challenges. These include:

- identifying potential collaborators from overseas;
- building and maintaining effective prevention research teams which span multiple countries;
- negotiating multiple prevention research systems, including identifying funding streams for international prevention research, and complying with prevention research governance and ethical review requirements in different countries;
- understanding how risk and protective factors function in different national and cultural settings, and developing measures to assess them.
- performing a solid scientific evaluation of the prevention intervention process and outcomes, in spite of major differences across nations and communities;
- negotiating differences in how 'best practice' is defined in relation to intervention design, implementation and evaluation across national contexts
- conceptualizing how collaboration activities can be integrated with international planning frameworks such as the United Nations Human Development Goals.

While a lack of formal guidance on these topics is evident, there is a gradually evolving understanding on how to overcome these challenges. This workshop aims to develop participants' understanding of the key principles of successful international prevention

research and strategies to overcome the challenges outlined above. The workshop will enable participants to develop their practical skills in undertaking international collaborations.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the workshop participants should be able to:

- understand the rationale for international prevention research, and the key principles that inform it;
- identify ways in which to communicate effectively the importance of international prevention to others (e.g. funders);
- understand the major challenges in conducting international prevention research and strategies for overcoming these challenges; and
- develop collaboration plans that apply key principles and strategies from the workshop to their own prevention research proposals and projects.

Additionally, participants will be welcome (and indeed encouraged) to attend the SPR International Networking Forum during the afternoon of Tuesday, May 29 (immediately after the workshop), which will provide important networking opportunities and the chance to receive informal support from attendees from a range of international contexts.

Target workshop audience

The workshop is aimed at all prevention researchers who are currently undertaking international prevention research or are considering doing so in the future, and are interested in developing their skills in forming and developing international collaborations. The workshop is likely to be of interest to early career prevention researchers, but will also be of relevance to more experienced prevention researchers who are interested in developing international prevention research projects. The workshop will address both the process of identifying and developing a project with an international component, and key aspects of conducting research through international collaborations.

Materials to be provided to attendees:

Attendees will receive a copy of all the PowerPoint presentations used. Written information on key resources referenced during the workshop, will also be provided.

Outline of workshop:

The workshop would be divided into three main sections.

First, we will provide an overview of the key rationale for conducting international prevention research, the principles that should inform it, and some of the major challenges highlighted above.

Second, we will present a set of case-studies that show how these challenges operate in 'real life' prevention research studies, and successful strategies to overcome them.

Thirdly, we will ask participants to work in pairs and small groups to discuss ways to apply the principles taught in the workshop to a project they are currently working on or would like to develop in the future. Participants will then feed back to the group on how they intend to develop their own international collaborations and how they will apply the knowledge they have learnt during the workshop. This will provide a chance for participants to form "collaboration development plans" and receive feedback on these plans from the group leaders and other workshop participants. Following the workshop, participants will be welcome to attend the SPR International Networking Forum which will provide valuable opportunities to build networks, identify potential international collaborators and discover more about how SPR supports international research.