Developing a Program of Research: Part 2

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Key elements for developing a program of research

• Passion!
• Significance
  • Importance of the problem
  • Strong science base to support approach
  • If successful – what changes will this make in the science? In addressing the problem?
• Innovation
  • What are novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?
• Impact
  • What difference will this make?
• Resources
  • Funds, expertise, infrastructure
Program of Research

- **Passion!**
  - Working with Latino populations and communities
  - Children and adolescent focus
- **Teams**
  - Interdisciplinary
  - Local/national/global
  - Research and advocacy networks
- **Focus**
  - Reducing Latino adolescent sexual risk behaviors
  - Research to practice and policy
Advancing the Science of Sexual Risk Reduction Among Mexican and Latino Youth: A Program of Research

- Development of effective interventions to reduce sexual risk behavior
  - Adolescent and parent focused
- Theoretically and culturally grounded
- Collaborative
  - Bi-national
  - Between universities
  - Schools and communities
- Efficacy – through dissemination and implementation
### Adolescent Interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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Co-Investigator, L. O’Donnell PI, ACYF, HHS. |              |         |
Principal Investigator, NINR. 1R01NR008059 |              |         |
Principal Investigator, NIH. 5R01NR004855 |              |         |
# Parent Interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Co-PI. NINR, NIH. 1R01NR013505 (Cuidalos, PR)</td>
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| 2007-2010  | **A Computer-Based Parent/Adolescent HIV Communication Intervention for Latinos.**  
|            | Principal Investigator, NINR. 1R21NR010457                                 |
| 2004-2007  | **HIV Prevention Among Oaxacan Youth.**  
|            | Principal Investigator, Fogarty International Center, NIH.  
|            | 1R03TW006979                                                                |
| 2001-2006  | **Reducing HIV Risk Among Mexican Youth.**  
|            | Principal Investigator, NINR. 1R01NR008059                                 |
Summary

• Evidence of efficacy of adolescent and parent interventions
  • Provides additional support in addressing both abstinence and safer sex in sexual risk reduction with youth

• Acceptability and feasibility of the intervention in multiple communities and formats

• One of the few RCT’s to demonstrate the long-term effectiveness of an intervention for English or Spanish dominant Latino adolescents
## Use of Technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>PI/Co-PI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-2014</td>
<td>Using Second Life to Develop Facilitator Capacity to Implement a Latino HIV Prevention EBI.</td>
<td>Co-PI. NIMH, NIH. 5R21 MH095723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2010</td>
<td>A Computer-Based Parent/Adolescent HIV Communication Intervention for Latinos.</td>
<td>P.I., NINR.</td>
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Interaction with Materials

Technical assistance

Peer and trainer feedback

Group work
¡Cuídate! Training in Second Life®

Training Participants

- Five training sessions occurred from July – October
- Total of 35 participants from NY to CA
Testing a Computer/Web-based Parent-Adolescent Communication Intervention
Context
Lessons Learned

• Development of a (research) “vision”
  • What is the problem to be solved?
  • Define the ‘big dream’
  • Develop a plan
    • Sustainability of innovation
    • Periodic re-envisioning, reframing

• Determine practice and policy relevance at development
  • Deliberate process
  • Identify relevant (science) policy for research
  • Think about sustainability of end product
• Engage *multiple* stakeholders
• Communicate findings to multiple outlets – How are we making a difference? So what?
  – Scientific community
  – Practice communities
  – Lay and advocacy outlets
• Long-term process!
  • Highs and lows!
Building a Program of Research
Twelve Steps

1. Begin with questions that you feel passionate about
2. Identify your core concept of interest
3. Find a mentor who has expertise on your topic of interest.
4. Join an interdisciplinary research team that works in your topic area and try to work with them on grant applications, data collection, data analysis, and manuscripts.
5. Review and synthesize the literature on your question.
6. Find applicable theoretical models because without theory underlying inquiry, the work is in an explanatory and predictive vacuum, it lacks context and richness.
Twelve Steps (continued)

7. Talk with experts, including your mentors, about research priorities
8. Explore the websites of federal, association, foundation, and institutional sponsors
9. Formulate research questions
10. Develop substantive knowledge about your research topic:
11. Apply for funding to build a trajectory
12. Find a professional association that focuses on your topic; attend their meetings, network and submit abstracts