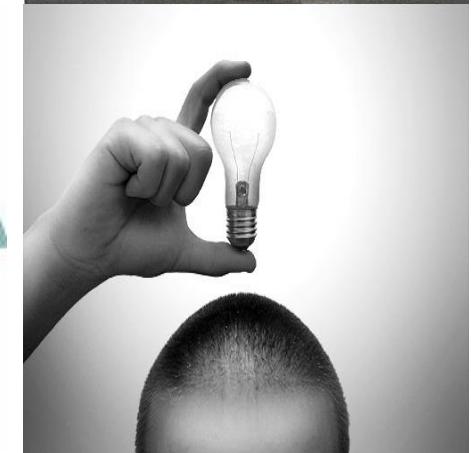




# Building Capacity in Drug and Alcohol Services and Research

Catherine Comiskey



TRINITY  
COLLEGE  
DUBLIN

Centre for Practice &  
Healthcare Innovation

School of Nursing & Midwifery  
Trinity College Dublin



# Overview



- Context
  - The NACDA
- A possible model for building capacity in substance misuse policy, research and services
  - Case Study: The Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation, Trinity College Dublin and St James Hospital
  - The Children's Research Network of Ireland and Northern Ireland

# National Drug Strategy 2009-2016 The 5 Pillars: Supply reduction, prevention, treatment rehabilitation and research





# The National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol (NACDA)

CPHI

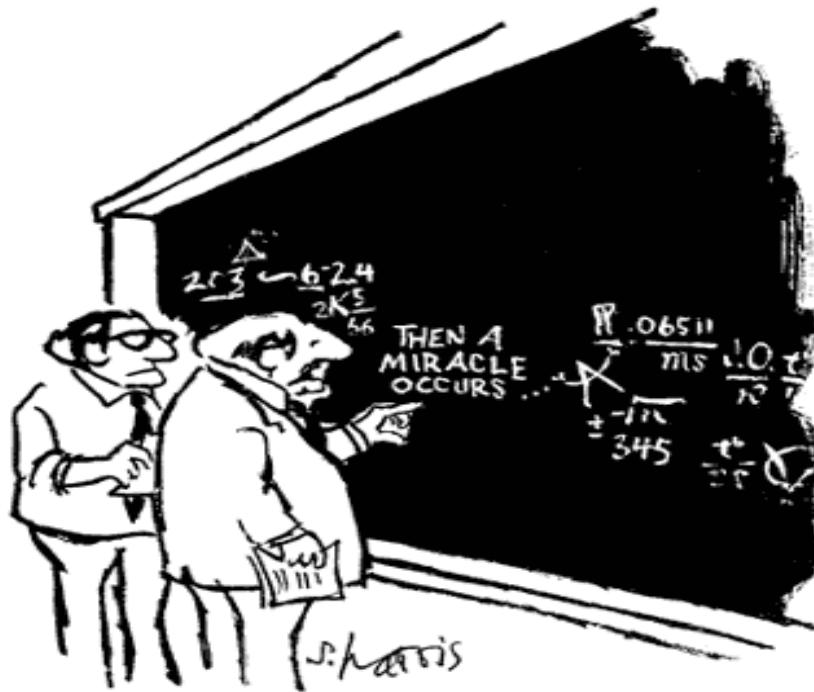


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- Advise Government in relation to the prevalence, prevention, treatment and consequences of substance use
- Oversee the delivery of a three year programme of research and evaluation to meet gaps identified
- To commission additional research
- To disseminate findings and advise on implementation of recommendations



# The research to policy to practice implementation gap...



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."



# Case Study 1: CPHI

- A newly established Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation (CPHI) merges expertise by bringing together the staff and practices of the hospital and the academic strength of the university in a partnership of equals.





# Aims of the new Centre for Practice and Healthcare Innovation

- To encourage and support innovations in education, research, practice and implementation
- To develop an extensive national network of Practice Innovation Units that work together to share ideas and resources for mutual benefit and for the common good.





# Model implemented in the CPHI

- Following in depth consultation with two of our key linked hospitals a needs analysis was conducted.
- This identified a need for a quantitative researcher/research fellow to facilitate the joint research collaboration between the practitioner and the academic
- Three successful applications for research facilitation funding have been awarded.





# Research Fellow Role

- Project management
  - To manage the operational elements of the joint initiative.
  - To act as the central contact point for the initiative.
- Data collation, analysis and description
- To contribute to literature reviews and writing.





# Infrastructural Supports & Sustainability

- **Short-term (2011 – 2013)**
  - Research fellow employed
  - Visiting Professor, Prof Gary Rolfe, consulted for expertise in practice innovation
  - Visiting Academic , Dr David Prendergast, Intel Ireland, consulted for innovation expertise
- **Medium-term (2012 onwards)**
  - A Chair of Nursing be jointly appointed by TCD and linked hospital
- **Long-term (2013 onwards)**
  - A suitable building to house the new initiative.





# CPHI projects to date

- 10 ongoing
- Research team makeup
  - Practitioner/s
  - Academic/s
  - Research fellow





# Projects in Practice Research

- Projects at phase 1 : Developing research questions:
- Projects at phase 2 : data collection/ cleaning / analysis
- Projects at Phase 3 : submitted for publication
- Projects at Phase 4: developing a research program





## Feedback to date from all stakeholders

- Time : Availability to do work, availability to meet.
- Team makeup:
  - Availability of appropriate academics.
  - Misconceptions of partnership role.
- Collecting data:
  - Formatting of case information.
  - Audit /research.
  - Ethics.





## Sustaining the model Research development plans year 2

- Convert from short team projects to project programmes.
- Further increase skills and outputs of all members.
- Apply for large scale funded projects.





## Case Study 2: The Children's Research Network of Ireland and Northern Ireland

Support the research community in Ireland and Northern Ireland to better understand and improve the lives of children and young people, by creating and maintaining an inclusive, independent, non-profit network through which information, knowledge, experience, learning and skills can be shared.





# CRNINI Model

- Build bridges between researchers in different sectors of this research community
- Focus on developing structures and mechanisms to promote the sharing of information, joint learning, working and the promotion of better understanding across the different sectors
- Link more experienced and early career researchers
- Facilitate the link between practitioners and researchers





## Infrastructural Supports & Sustainability

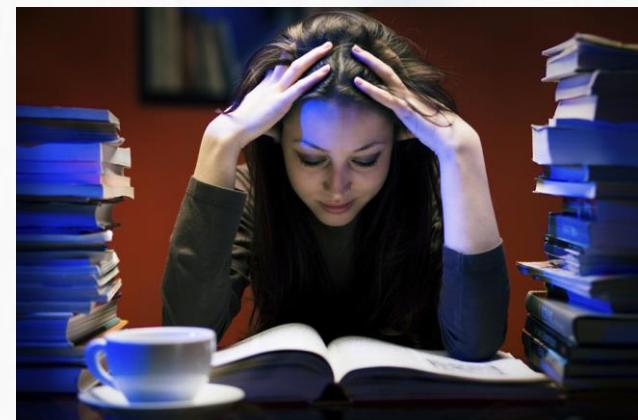
- Competitive funding for a Research Fellow to support the Network members
- Competitive funding to support the network administration
- Range of network events including an IRCHSS Summer School
- Practitioner/Researcher Project Initiative





# Linking practitioners and researchers

- New initiative from April 2012
- Linking resources of researcher/academia with practitioners/clients
- Facilitated by CRNINI Admin, Research Fellow and Intern.





# Bridging the gap: find the right pieces!

Identify the relevant sources  
of evidence

Identify the relevant  
facilitators

Choose from national and  
international models

Seek to be innovative!



**Thank you for your attention**

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