Building Common Metrics in Rehabilitation through University Based Partnerships

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Presenta:on Outline

• Background and History of Collaborations
• Purpose of activities
• Accomplishments
• Challenges
• Conclusions

Presentation Outline

UM-USP Partners

• Angelica Castilho Alonso, Post-doctoral student, USP
• Martin Forchheimer MPP, Research Associate, UM SCI Model System
• Bruno Giordani Ph.D., Professor, Department of Psychiatry
• Julia M Greve MD, Associate Professor, FMUSP, Sao Paulo
• Paula Kartje OTR, U-M Med Rehab Program, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R)
• Chandramouli Krishnan Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of PM&R
• Ron Maio MD, Emergency Medicine and UM Michigan Injury Center
• Jean Shoppe, Professor Emeritus, School of Public Health and UMTRI
• Mark Peterson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of PM&R
• Luciana Santos BA, Research Assistant, Dept. of PM&R
• Denise Tate Ph.D., Professor, Dept. of PM&R

Background and History

• Our collaborations evolved from existing professional relationships, common interests and common trust and mutual respect.
• Key factors that facilitated these collaborations:
  - common area of research identified – SCI
  - common language facilitated communications – Portuguese
  - familiarity among sites and diversity of perspectives from investigators living in distinct geographical areas: US (Michigan and Boston); Brazil (SP and Rio); and Canada (Toronto).
  - Transition from strong medical emphasis to a truly multidisciplinary team
  - Availability of funds for start up projects
  - Strong research skills, well published and experienced researchers
2011 Meeting at the American Spinal Cord Injury Association Meeting, Washington DC.

History and Evolution of Projects

- ASIA 2011 Meeting – first publication discussed with data collection across sites (Spinal Cord) – translation of international SCI datasets.
- Presentation at the 2012 International Society of Spinal Cord (ISSCord) by Brazilian Physician Resident mentored by Dr. Greve on neurogenic bowel datasets translation into Brazilian Portuguese.
- UM-USP agreement is signed – Researchers met at USP, Sao Paulo.
- Tate delivered two lectures in Sao Paulo – FMUSP and Rehabilitation Hospital – focusing on the datasets and inviting further collaborators.
- Greve visited UM and gives Grand Round Lecture for PM&R Residents.
- Joint research proposal is written and funded by UM and FAPESP: Planning the Development and Testing of Standard Methods to Evaluate Driving by Older Adults with and without Functional Impairments (Tate-Greve, Co-PIs) – multidisciplinary research teams are assembled in both sites.

Building a Strong Research Partnership
Two Collaborative Projects

1. Spinal Cord Injury International Data Sets – joint translation of bowel, quality of life datasets. Other datasets are translated into Brazilian Portuguese by USP team.

Project 1 Successful Attributes
- Residents Research Collaborations
- Strong Organizational Back Up
- Exchange of Faculty and Teaching
- Addresses an important need

Challenges Encountered
- Project 2 (driving) is broad in scope allowing for growth in many directions but at time same time it makes finding a unique focus more difficult.
- Funding received so far does not cover faculty time to work on this project. It's a labor of love!
- Funding mechanisms in each country are different and so are research priorities by funding agencies. Funding is tight right now.
- Distance and language barriers can be a problem when trying to reach consensus on methodological issues.
- Rules and regulations from each site and country can become barriers to research and exchange of faculty or students.

UM-USP FAPESP Project

2. Development of Standard Methods to Evaluate Driving Among Older Individuals with and without Disabilities – involves multiple partners from UM-PMR, SPH, UMTIR, Psychiatry, and USP.
   - Regular monthly Skype meetings among partners
   - Eagles to fund Luciana Santos as a Research Assistant for this project.

Project 2 Successful Attributes
- Multidisciplinary scope and interests
- Greater potential for generalizability: Application to two patient populations: elderly and disabled
- Many of opportunities for spin off research projects
- Leveraging dollars: U.S. Gift received from Fraternal Order of the Eagles to fund Luciana Santos as a Research Assistant for this project.
- Opportunities for post-doctoral training (USP Residents, nurses, etc.) – First post-doctoral nursing student to arrive in December 2014 funded by CNPQ and FAPESP
- Synergy: Connected USP-UM project investigators with FIOCRUZ investigators

Conclusions
- Both projects build on strong personal commitment, wide faculty interests and excellent research qualifications, and existing infrastructures at both universities.
- Both projects focus on providing common metrics that can be used in both countries to expand opportunities for future collaborations.
  - Common data sets for Spinal Cord Patients in clinical trials
  - Common tools and measures for driving evaluation

Obrigado!