ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Pittsburgh Dissemination and Implementation Science Collaborative

Pittsburgh
DISC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

A Year in Review

The 2020-2021 academic year was one of ongoing upheaval and finding a "new normal" for each of us– Pitt DISC was no exception. As Co-Directors, we sought to provide opportunities for learning, communication, and scholarship in implementation science. We partnered with the VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (CHERP) and the newly formed IMPACT Core and Implementation Lab at the University of Pittsburgh CTSI. We are proud of the work of all DISC members and the progress we've made toward our goals. In this report, we describe the activities of the past year and look toward to the future.

> *Pittsburgh DISC exists to connect interdisciplinary D&I scientists and trainees to develop D&I collaborative research, education, infrastructure, and capacity.*

Looking Ahead

As Pitt DISC continues to evolve and grow, we are excited for emerging collaboration, learning, and scholarship. We are thankful to each DISC member for your ongoing support and investment. As we move into the coming season, we hope you will join us as we continue to expand dissemination and implementation in our region.

LauraEllen Ashcraft, MSW
Shari Rogal, MD, MPH
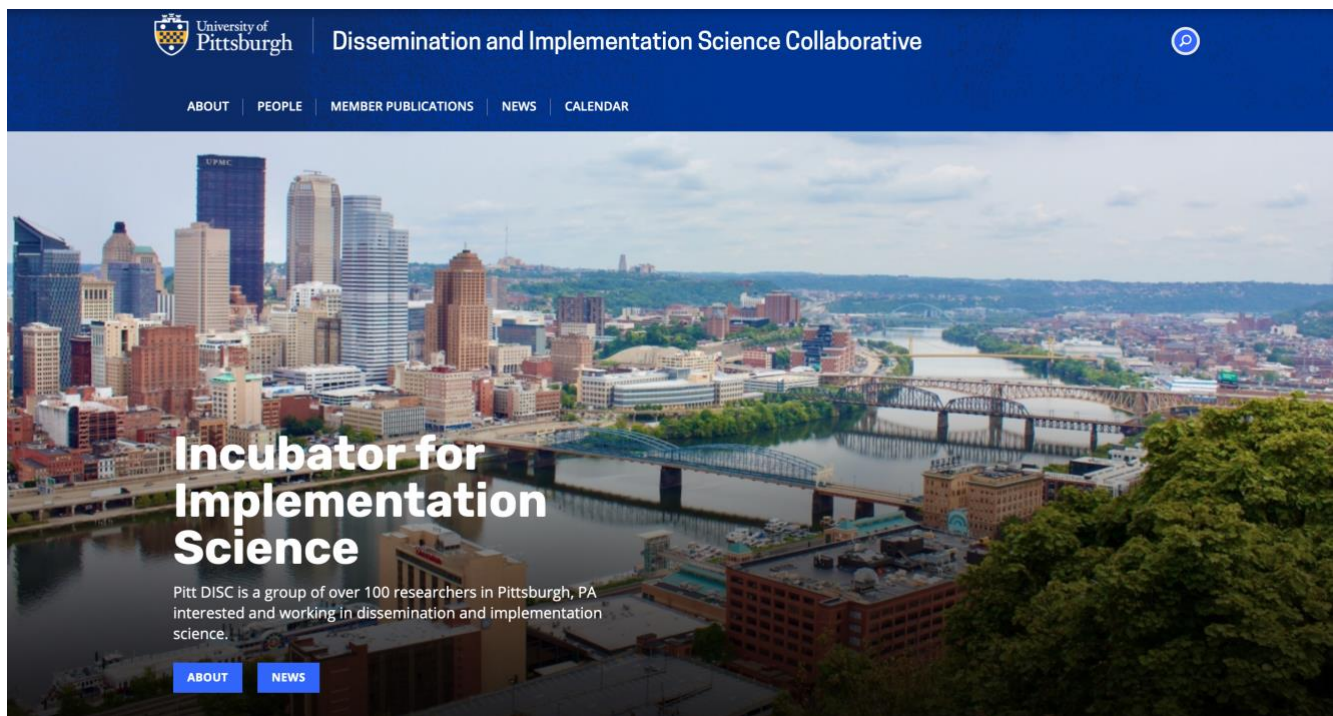*Co-Founders and Co-Directors*
Pitt DISC

NETWORKING & COMMUNICATIONS

Pitt DISC hosted virtual Tables of Six networking events for idea sharing and collaboration.

Communication efforts increased over the past year with highlights including:

- Email distribution of funding, employment, and scholarship opportunities
- Continued development of the annotated directory to promote collaboration
- Tested video announcements as a new format for sharing DISC news

Pittsburgh DISC website launched in December 2020

EDUCATION

Pitt DISC used several strategies to provide educational opportunities for our members. This included a lecture series from implementation science experts and the development of an implementation science course.

Lecture Series

Over the course of the year, Pitt DISC hosted six lectures (described in more detail below). The goal of these lectures was, in part, educational and also to bring implementation science perspectives from scientists outside of DISC.
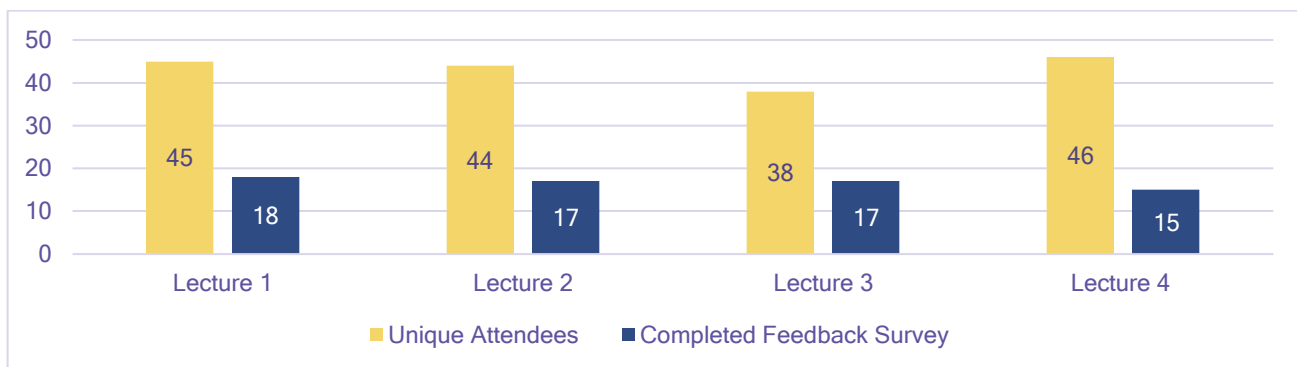
Implementation Science Course

Led by Drs. Charles Jonassaint and Shari Rogal, the ICRE launched a two-part introductory D&I course this spring. Two month-long, twice weekly courses included guest lecturers from across the country, the introduction of a new framework for learning about D&I, and an infusion of tools from Human Centered Design. The feedback from this year was positive and the courses will be offered yearly. As a part of the course development Dr. Jonassaint led efforts to develop online resources and short videos, with the support of the IDEA lab. Be on the lookout for these fun and informative videos!
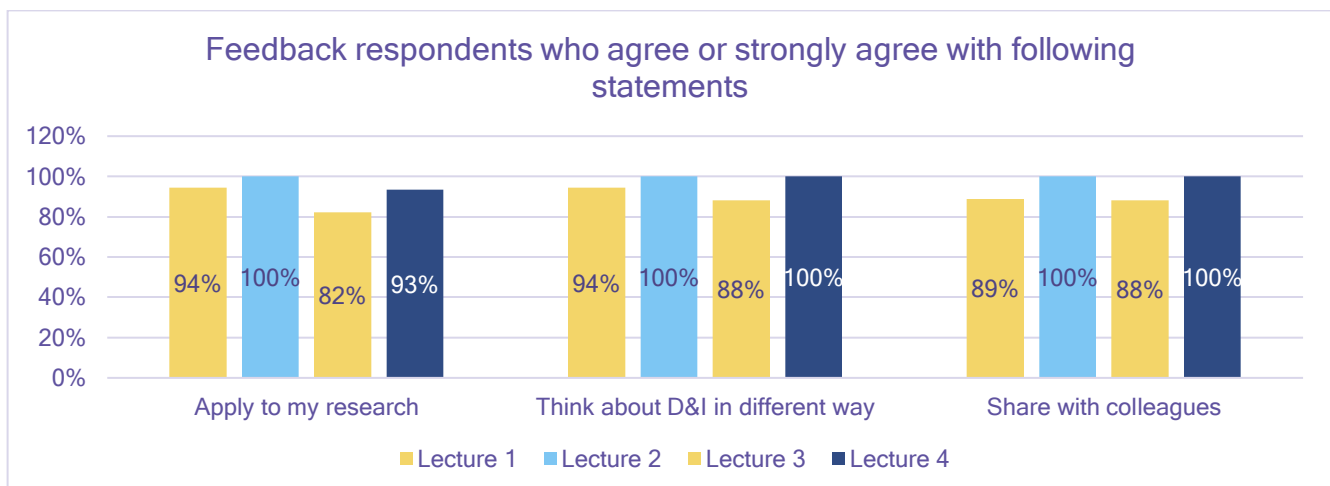
FALL 2020 LECTURE SERIES

Four Lectures

- An Introduction to Dissemination and Implementation Science (and other cool stuff),
  Matthew Chinman, PhD
- Optimizing Implementation Strategies to Improve the Quality of Health Services,
  Byron Powell, PhD, LCSW
- Implementation Science as an opportunity to advance Healthcare Innovation,
  Charles Jonassaint, PhD
- Practical guidance on how to incorporate health equity domains into implementation determinants frameworks,
  Eva Woodward, PhD

Attendance

Feedback

All respondents reported that all four lectures were interesting, and they learned something.
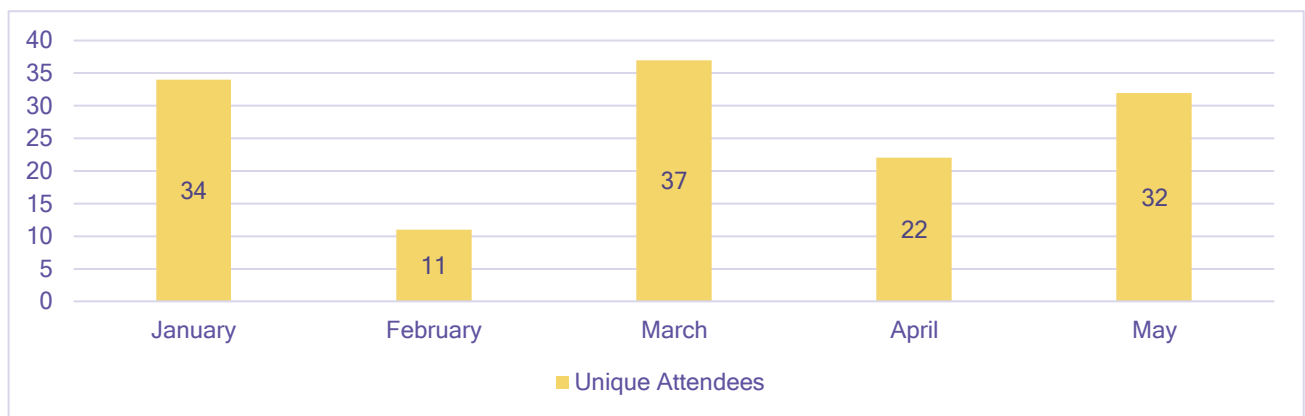
SPRING 2021 EVENTS

Lectures

- January: Why Comics for Knowledge Translation
  Silas James
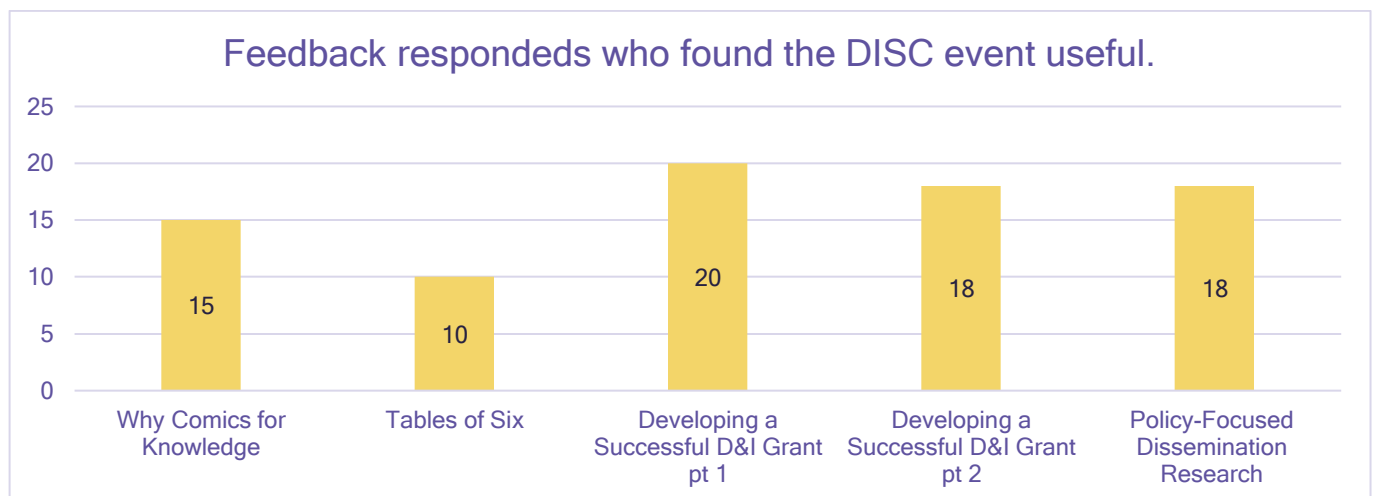- May: Policy-Focused Dissemination Research
  Jonathan Purtle, DrPH

Networking Events

- February: Tables of Six
- March: Developing a Successful D&I Grant: Part 1
- April: Developing a Successful D&I Grant: Part 2

Attendance

Participants of the Annual Feedback Survey attended on average between 2 and 3 of the five Spring 2021 events with 4 participants (11%) attending all five events.

SCHOLARSHIP

Systematic Review of Implementation Strategies

Pitt DISC has undertaken the monumental task of conducting a systematic review of implementation strategies. This goal is to identify an evidence base for implementation strategies and describe its rigor.

8,475
abstracts

23
investigators

200+
hours

Progress

The team of investigators continues to review abstracts and plans to move to the full text review phase in Fall 2021. The team has already contributed an estimated 200+ hours of work into this needed project.

ANNUAL FEEDBACK SURVEY

Overview

The Pitt DISC leadership solicited feedback from members. The Annual Feedback Survey was first distributed on May 14, 2021 via email with two follow-up reminders sent throughout the month of May. 35 DISC members completed the annual survey (28% of membership). The following summarizes responses in the categories of Future Events, Communications, Education, and the overall Future of DISC.

Future Events

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the format for Pitt DISC events from all in-person events to all virtual events. Participants were asked what event format DISC should adopt moving forward.

- 66% (n=23) Pitt DISC should host both in-person and virtual events.
- 60% (n=21) Pitt DISC events should be simultaneously in-person and virtual.
- 31% (n-11) I prefer virtual but would maybe show up for an in-person event.
- 20% (n=7) I prefer all virtual events.

Pitt DISC members were also asked when they may be ready to attend in-person events.

- 40% (n=14) Probably ready for in-person events in Fall 2021.
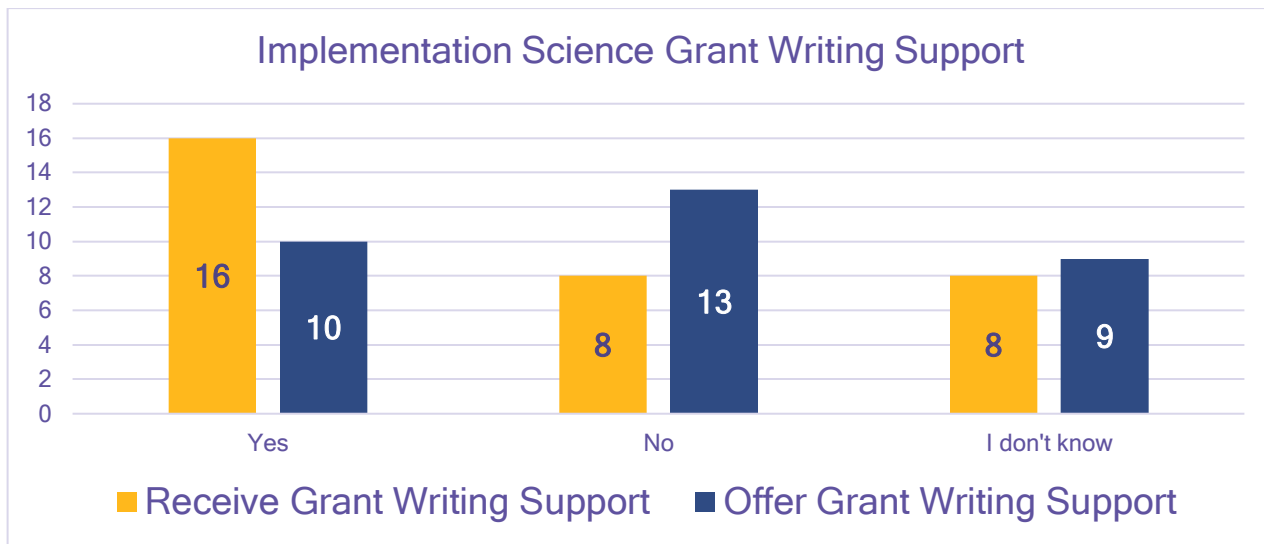- 23% (n=8) Probably ready for in-person events in Spring 2022.

Communications

Participants were asked their perceptions about Pitt DISC communications. 89% (n=31) felt they received an appropriate number of emails from Pitt DISC. Almost all participants (91%, n=32) prefer to receive calendar invites for DISC events. About half of DISC members were mostly ambivalent to the video announcement format (54%, n=19).

Education

Most participants (80%, n=28) had heard of the implementation science course offered through CTSI and most (74%, n=26) would be interested in other implementation science courses offered at the University of Pittsburgh.

The Future of DISC

In the future DISC members would like the following events:

- General D&I Lectures (89%, n=31)
- Advanced Implementation Science Methods (80%, n=28)
- Works in Progress (74%, n=26)
- Networking (63%, n=22)