



Cornell University



Systemic Translational Review Description

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The BCTR Systematic Translational Review (STR) process was established to address the need for replicable systems and protocols for conducting timely and trustworthy research syntheses on topics relevant to BCTR constituencies. The STR process is a hybrid model that includes the systematic features of a traditional review, the speed of a rapid review, and the inclusion of practitioner input for the translation of evidence to an applied practice question.

To pilot test the new STR process, the BCTR has partnered with the Cornell Office for Research on Evaluation (CORE) and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), linking the need for research evidence in extension projects to more effective program implementation and evaluation. During the pilot test, researchers from BCTR and CORE will form small Practice Partnership Teams (PPT) with practitioners and faculty within the CCE system who are seeking the evidence base for their extension work.

Each Practice Partnership Team will define a research question for the STR process, establish search parameters, and participate in the nomination of both academic and practice-based experts and resources to consult. Practice Partnership Teams will work collaboratively to identify possible inconsistencies or gaps in published literature, and explore “practice wisdom” that may not yet have a published body of evidence. PPTs will work to establish consensus when possible, to equally reflect expertise from all participants.

STR search results will be collected and summarized by BCTR staff using established methods for searching the literature and an existing “standards of evidence” hierarchy, within parameters identified by the Practice Partnership Team. A summary describing the quantity, quality, and content of the search results will be reviewed by the Practice Partnership Team and evaluated for any necessary revisions. The final product of the STR process will be a short synopsis summarizing the state of evidence for the research question, and key foci for both current practice and further exploration.

Systematic Translational Review (STR) Essential Qualities:

- ◆ **Tailored:** Each STR is driven by the specific needs identified by the Practice Partnership Team (PPT), according to the specifics of the research question and search parameters established at the outset.
- ◆ **Transparent:** Purpose, parameters, and strategies for each review are fully described.
- ◆ **Participatory:** Both academic and practice-based expertise is included to develop the question and guide the focus of each STR research question.
- ◆ **Relevant:** The purpose of each STR is driven by users with an applied need from practice or research. Selected questions for each STR are purposeful, clear, relevant, bounded, and translational – contributing to a two-way evidence-to-practice approach.
- ◆ **Iterative:** Result summaries are reviewed by the PPT to check for any gaps, and make necessary adjustments prior to finalization into an STR synopsis.
- ◆ **Trustworthy:** Evidence is located and evaluated using purposeful source nomination and established procedures for both reviewing published literature and judging the quality of evidence. The resulting summary includes quantity, quality, and content of search results. The final STR synopsis is produced to answer the question established by the PPT.

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