

8th Annual Symposium on General  
Population Screening for T1D  
Barbara Davis Center  
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## Pragmatic Trials

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# Disclosures

I have nothing to disclose

# Objectives

- Describe the use of pragmatic trials and implementation research as applied to T1D Screening and Monitoring
- Share lessons learned from global research experience
- Demonstrate different study design methodologies to create rigorous approaches in implementation research

# Who We Are



We are a joint center for health systems innovation at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health





# Vision and Mission

## OUR VISION

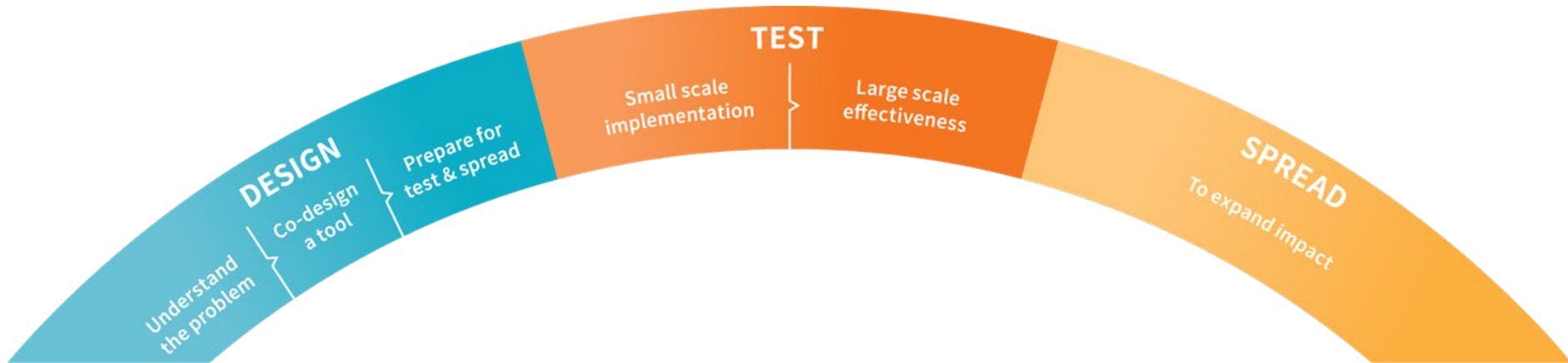
Our vision is that health systems equitably deliver the best possible care for every person, everywhere, every time.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to save lives and reduce suffering for people everywhere by creating scalable solutions that address system failures to improve health.

# Innovation Through Real-World Testing

To ensure that our solutions meet the highest standards of science, we utilize our innovation pathway, the Ariadne Labs Arc.



# Our 2024 Global Impact on People and Patients

# 140 MILLION

Patient lives touched in FY24

**55** Tools designed,  
tested, and  
spread in 2024



Worked with  
259 health  
systems

Worked directly with  
**147K** health care  
providers

**56,000**

Health care professionals trained

**83**  
Peer reviewed  
publications

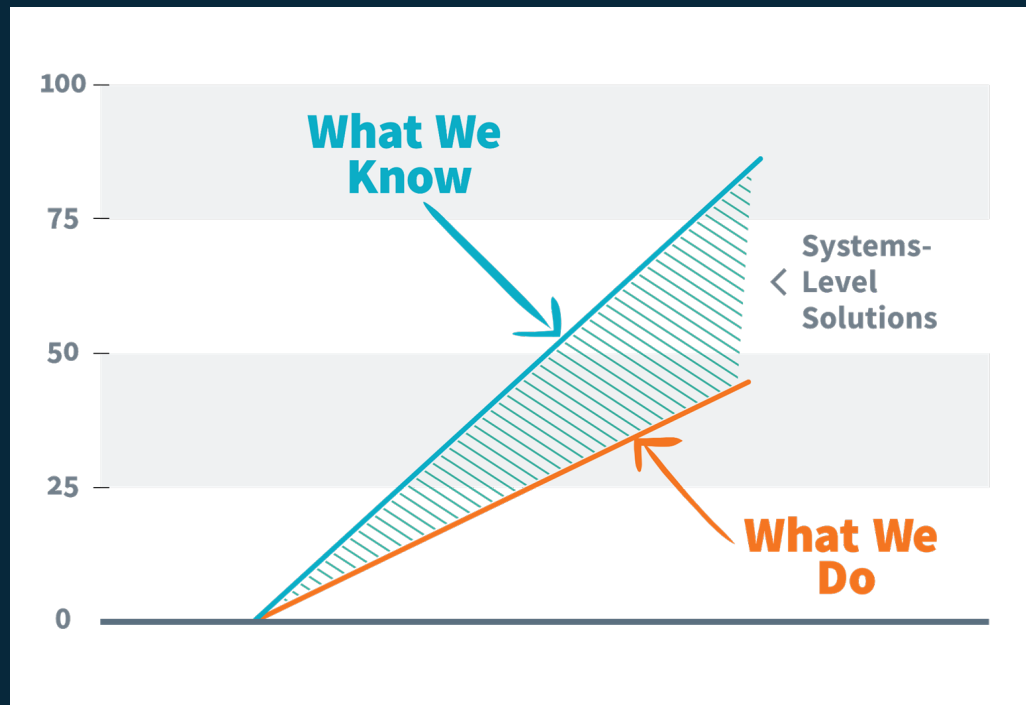


**14.9K**  
downloads  
of tools and  
resources

**180** Number of countries where health  
care professionals accessed our work

# Closing Know-Do Gaps

Through scalable, systems-level solutions, we aim to close the gaps between what we know should happen in health care and what actually happens.





# Basic Effectiveness Designs



- Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) have long been considered the highest form of clinical evidence
- Minimized threats to internal validity
- Most valid methods evaluate the efficacy or effectiveness of interventions

# Limitations of RCTs

|                    | Typical RCTs     | Needs of Decision Makers           |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Comparator         | Placebo          | Active                             |
| Patient Population | Highly Selective | Representative of Typical Practice |
| Care Setting       | Highly Selective | Representative of Typical Practice |
| Outcome Measures   | Surrogate        | Patient Centered                   |
| Follow-up Time     | Short            | Long                               |
| Cost               | High             | Moderate                           |
| Speed              | Slow             | Faster                             |

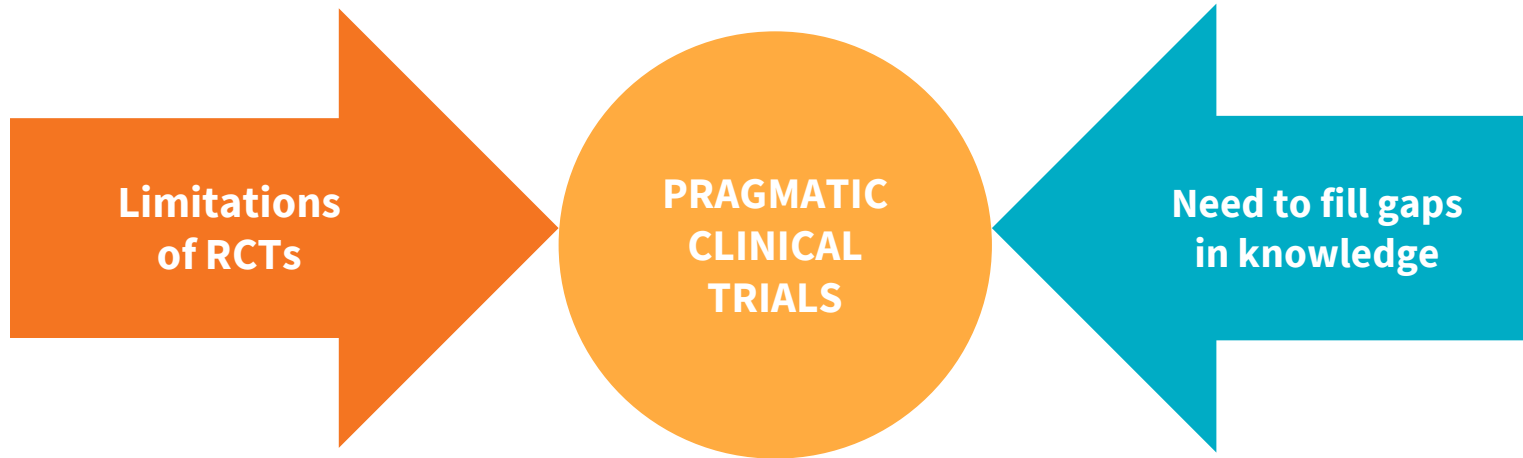
It has been said....

“Culture eats strategy  
for breakfast”



Yes and...we can create program implementation and strategies considering culture & community to create opportunities for studying screening & monitoring.

# Doing Trials in the “Real World”



# What is Implementation Science & Research?

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“The study of methods to **promote the integration of research findings and evidence into healthcare policy and practice**.... It seeks to **understand the behavior of healthcare professionals and other stakeholders as a key variable** in the sustainable uptake, adoption, and implementation of evidence-based interventions.”

— *NIH Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation. NLM.NIH.gov*

# Problem We Are Solving For

## Current State

- Primary care providers do not have guidance to screen families for T1D.
- Families are often diagnosed at the point of DKA.
- The general population is largely unaware about T1D and screening.



**Unaware**  
Families-at-Risk &  
General Population



**Underequipped**  
Primary Care  
and Pediatricians

G  
A  
P

## Future State

- Primary care providers can screen for early T1D, shifting diagnosis from crisis.
- T1D families have time to plan care, consider research participation, or possibly explore treatment to delay stage 3 onset.
- The general population is familiar with T1D, its signs, risks and screening.



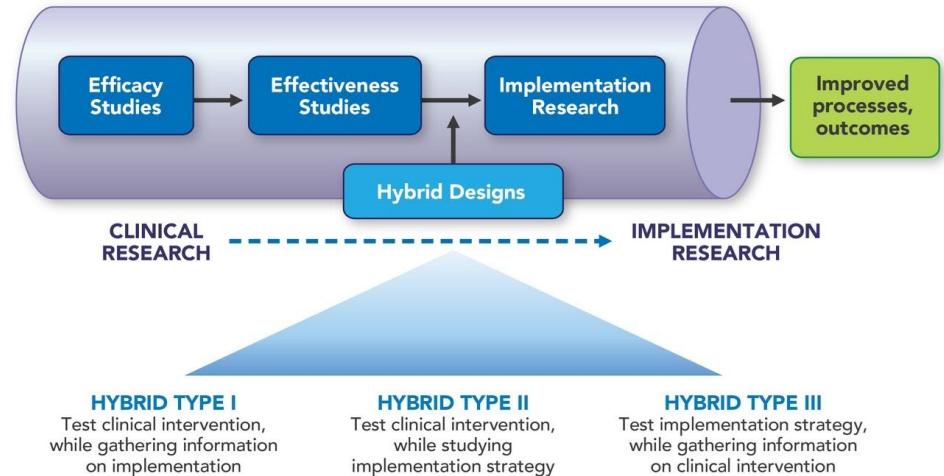
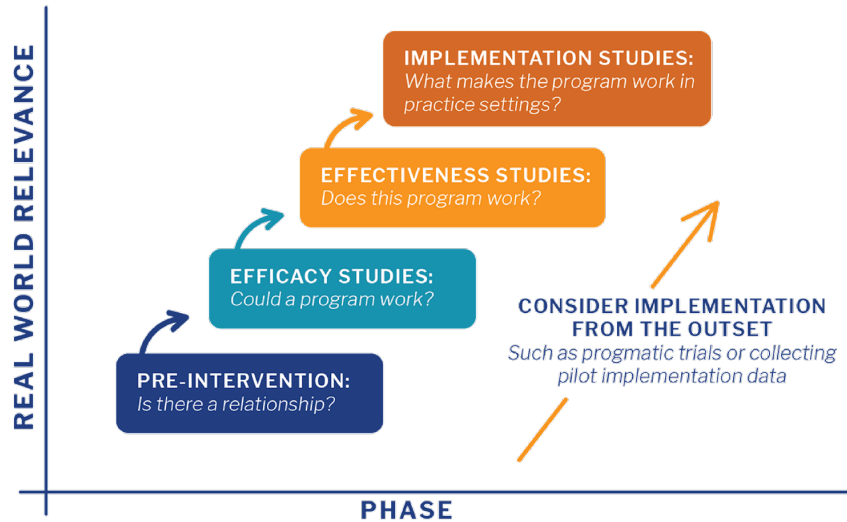
**Informed & Supported**  
Families-at-Risk &  
General Population



**Informed & Supported**  
Primary Care and  
Pediatricians

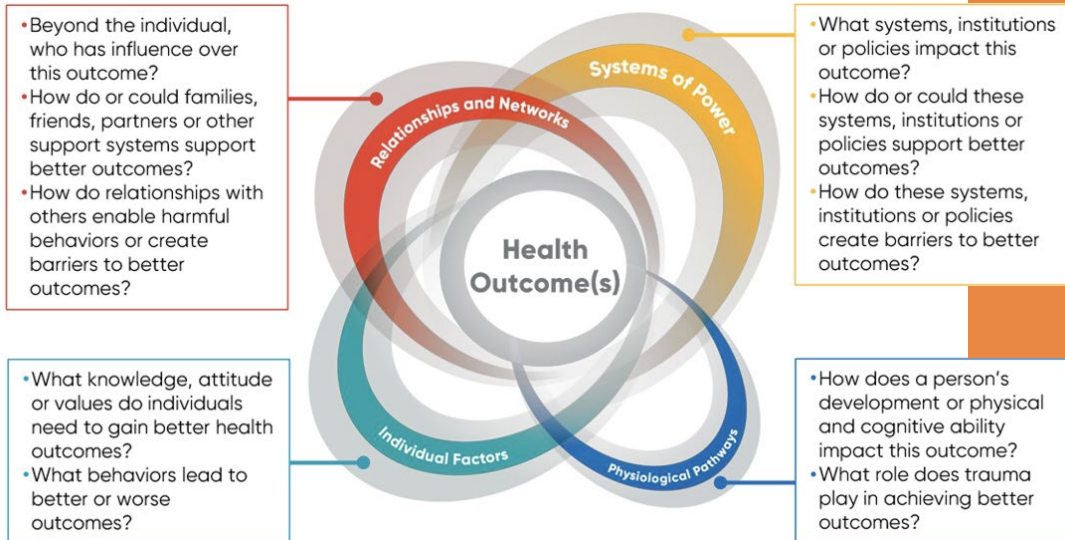
# How to design a trial to make it “pragmatic”

# Implementation Research: Rigor & Reality



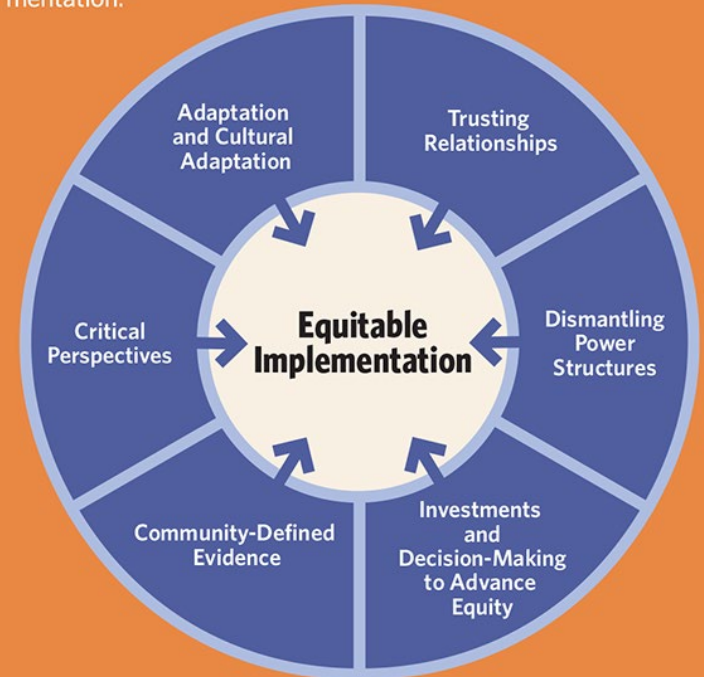


# Health Equity: Frameworks & Implementation



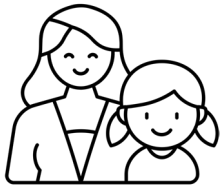
## Elements of Equitable Implementation

Six factors have proven essential in successful equitable implementation.



# Lesson #1: Know Your Audience

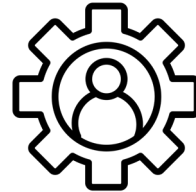
## What Matters to them Most



**Parents / Family  
Members**



**Payors**



**Health System  
Administrators /  
Implementers**



**Policymakers**



**Pediatric Primary Care  
Clinicians**



**Pediatric  
Endocrinologists**



**Researchers**



**Awareness, Education,  
& Policy Organizations**

# Effectiveness-Implementation Hybrid Designs

Blending design components of clinical effectiveness and implementation research.

## Hybrid Type I

- Testing effects of a clinical intervention on relevant outcomes while observing and gathering information on implementation.

## Hybrid Type II

- Dual testing of clinical and implementation interventions/strategies.

## Hybrid Type III

- Testing of an implementation strategy while observing and gathering information on the clinical intervention's impact on relevant outcomes.

Curran et al. 2012

## Lesson #2: Implementation Must Be Widely Defined

Readiness to implement goes beyond human and material resources & can impact outcomes



# Effectiveness Measures: Does THE THING work?

## Effectiveness Core Outcome Datasets

### COMET Initiative

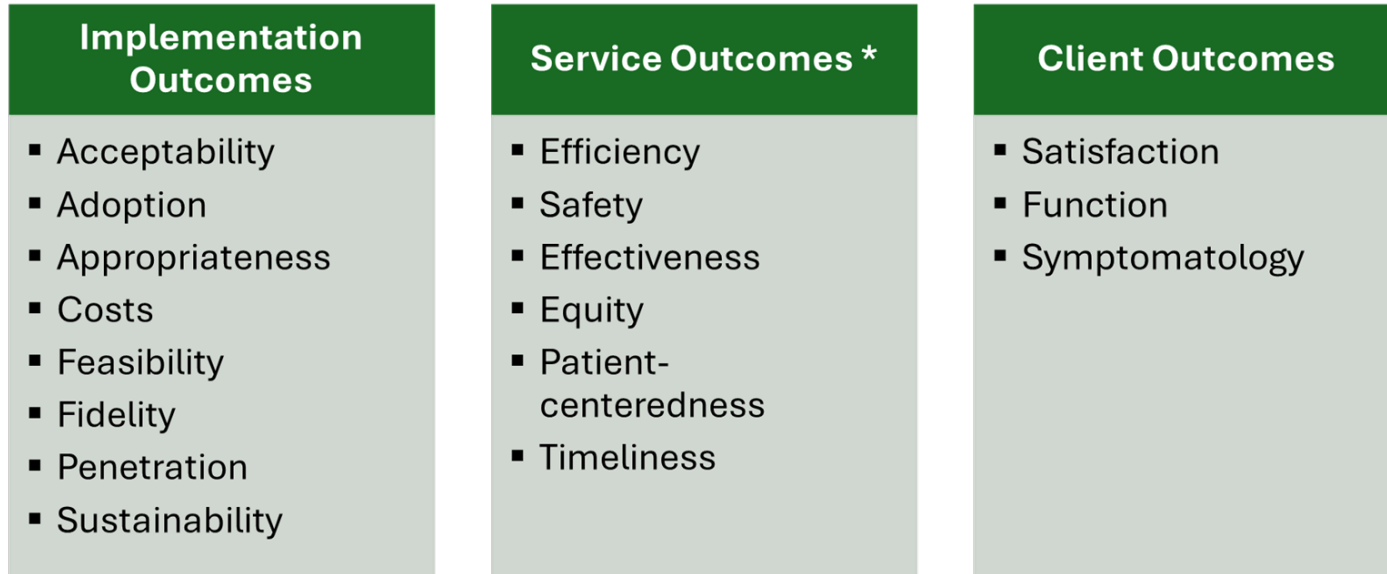
**ICHOM Datasets** (International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement): Diabetes Core Set

**World Health Organization** (Global measures)



Proctor et al. 2011


# Implementation Outcomes: How does THE THING work?



\* IOM Standards of Care

Proctor et al. 2011, Figure 1

# Implementation Outcome Measures: Indicator selection


Implementation Outcome Repository
≡

## Implementation outcomes

Implementation outcomes have been defined as 'the effects of deliberate and purposive actions to implement new treatments, practices and services and are distinct from service and client (patient) outcomes' [Proctor et al, 2011].

The implementation outcome instruments included in this repository correspond to the implementation outcomes, associated definitions and 'commonly used terms' (presented below) proposed in the Implementation Outcomes Taxonomy developed by Proctor et al, 2011. The Implementation Outcomes Taxonomy includes eight conceptually distinct but interrelated implementation outcomes: acceptability, appropriateness, feasibility, adoption, fidelity, penetration, implementation cost and sustainability.

### Implementation outcomes

(based on Proctor et al's 2011 taxonomy)

**Implementation outcomes**

- Acceptability
- Adoption
- Appropriateness
- Costs
- Feasibility
- Fidelity
- Penetration
- Sustainability

**Services outcomes**

- Efficiency
- Safety
- Equity
- Patient Centeredness
- Timeliness

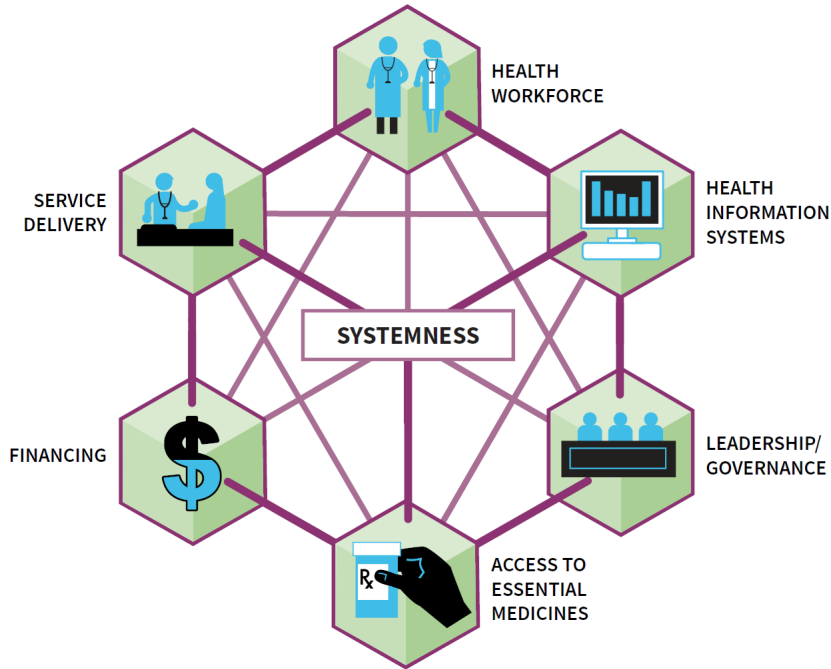
**Client outcomes**

- Satisfaction
- Function
- Symptomatology

<https://implementationoutcomerepository.org/implementation-outcomes>

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# Lesson #3: Health “Systemness” Must Be Leveraged



What systems exist to leverage data and inputs so we do not set up parallel systems?



# Implementation Frameworks: CFIR

## CONSOLIDATED FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH

| <b>Intervention</b>           | <b>Outer Setting</b>            | <b>Inner Setting</b>                 | <b>Individual</b>                  | <b>Process</b>                             |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| External funding              | Government support              | Cadre tension/<br>dynamics           | Motivation and<br>perceived burden | Clarity of audit and<br>evaluation process |
| Ongoing funding               | Patient care<br>preferences     | Leadership support                   | Knowledge and<br>skill gaps        | Use in emergency<br>situations             |
| Mentorship                    | Referral system                 | Staff turnover                       | Resistance<br>to change            | Routine workflow<br>integration            |
| Team-wide use                 | Motivational<br>incentives      | Infrastructure                       |                                    | Identifying practices<br>adopted as habits |
| Medical record<br>integration | Tension over<br>data collection | Prioritization of<br>quality of care |                                    |  |
| Perception of tool            |                                 |                                      |                                    |  |
| Printing costs                |                                 |                                      |                                    |  |
| Government<br>mandates        |                                 |                                      |                                    |  |

# Learning from Research & Implementation Trials: Secondary Analysis

- Leverage the implementations to date and broader healthcare system data
- Opportunities for meta-analysis utilizing newer statistical methods, such as propensity score matching or target trial approaches
- Apply new consensus guidelines to implementation programs & research datasets
- Address key questions around equitable implementation of screening and monitoring, e.g. Who is being screened? Who is missing out? At what age is the highest rates of uptake? At what frequency are children monitored in practice?

# Lesson #4: Utilize Pragmatic Trials for Rigorous Evaluation



# Experimental Design: Cluster RCT

| CLUSTER RCT |    |   |
|-------------|----|---|
| Cluster     | 1  | ■ |
|             | 2  | ■ |
|             | 3  | ■ |
|             | 4  | ■ |
|             | 5  | ■ |
|             | 6  | ■ |
|             | 7  | ■ |
|             | 8  | ■ |
|             | 9  | ■ |
|             | 10 | ■ |

**LEVEL OF RANDOMIZATION:** Cluster (Facility, Ward, or even Hospital)

**OUTCOME MEASURED:** Individually assessed, but averaged at cluster level

**PRO:**

- Most rigorous
- Unaffected by secular trends
- Efficacy & Effectiveness
- Intervention at cluster level

**CON:**

- Spillover
- Larger sample size required

Appropriate when seeking rigorous evaluation and resources (time, money) available.

# What is the optimum timing of T1D screening invitation?

| CLUSTER RCT |    |   |
|-------------|----|---|
| Cluster     | 1  | ■ |
|             | 2  | ■ |
|             | 3  | ■ |
|             | 4  | ■ |
|             | 5  | ■ |
|             | 6  | ■ |
|             | 7  | ■ |
|             | 8  | ■ |
|             | 9  | ■ |
|             | 10 | ■ |

**LEVEL OF RANDOMIZATION:** Clinic/Practice Level

**INTERVENTION:**

- Text message invitation sent 20 days in advance to family (range 13-20 days)
- Text message invitation sent 10 days in advance to family (range 3-10 days)

**METHODS:** Cluster RCT + Qualitative interviews

**OUTCOMES MEASURED:** Uptake of T1D screening at clinic visit; Family satisfaction with timing

# Who should offer T1D screening invitation?

| CLUSTER RCT |    |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|----|---|---|---|---|
| Cluster     | 1  | ■ |   | ■ |   |
|             | 2  |   | ■ |   | ■ |
|             | 3  |   |   | ■ | ■ |
|             | 4  | ■ | ■ |   |   |
|             | 5  |   | ■ |   | ■ |
|             | 6  |   | ■ | ■ |   |
|             | 7  | ■ |   | ■ |   |
|             | 8  |   | ■ |   | ■ |
|             | 9  |   | ■ | ■ |   |
|             | 10 | ■ |   |   | ■ |

**LEVEL OF RANDOMIZATION:** Clinic/Practice Level

**INTERVENTION:**

- MD
- RN
- NP/PA [APP]
- CHW

**OUTCOME MEASURED:** Uptake of T1D screening at clinic visit; Duration (minutes) of invitation visit; Family knowledge of screening

# Quasi-Experimental Designs (Stepped-Wedge)

| SW-RCT  |     |        |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|---------|-----|--------|---|---|---|---|----|----|
|         |     | Period |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|         |     | 1      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | .. | 12 |
| Cluster | 1   |        | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■  | ■  |
|         | 2   |        |   | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■  | ■  |
|         | 3   |        |   |   | ■ | ■ | ■  | ■  |
|         | 4   |        |   |   |   | ■ | ■  | ■  |
|         | ... |        |   |   |   |   | ■  | ■  |
|         | 10  |        |   |   |   |   |    | ■  |

time →

**LEVEL OF RANDOMIZATION:** possible to randomize at cluster level or not

**LEVEL OF OUTCOME MEASUREMENT:** Assessed at individual or cluster level

**PRO**

- Intervention at cluster level
- Relatively easy
- Everyone eventually gets the intervention
- Clear control

**CON**

- Need locations up front
- Some clusters have to wait a long time for intervention to start
- Larger sample size

Appropriate particularly for large scale implementation evaluation as it aligns with project roll-out

# Does combining Celiac testing with T1D increase uptake of screening?

|         |     | SW-RCT |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|---------|-----|--------|---|---|---|---|----|----|
|         |     | Period |   |   |   |   |    |    |
|         |     | 1      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | .. | 12 |
| Cluster | 1   |        | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■  | ■  |
|         | 2   |        |   | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■  | ■  |
|         | 3   |        |   |   | ■ | ■ | ■  | ■  |
|         | 4   |        |   |   |   | ■ | ■  | ■  |
|         | ... |        |   |   |   |   | ■  | ■  |
|         | 10  |        |   |   |   |   |    | ■  |

time →

**LEVEL OF RANDOMIZATION:** Facility-level

**CONTROL:**

- T1D Screening is being offered to all patients

**INTERVENTION:**

- Adding Celiac Disease Screening with T1D Screening

**OUTCOMES MEASURED:** Uptake of screening for T1D; Uptake of Screening for Celiac Disease; Acceptability and feasibility by clinicians and family feedback on screening process



# Does school-based screening increase uptake of T1D screening?

|         |     | SW-RCT |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |
|---------|-----|--------|---|---|---|---|----|----|--|
|         |     | Period |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |
|         |     | 1      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | .. | 12 |  |
| Cluster | 1   |        | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■  | ■  |  |
|         | 2   |        |   | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■  | ■  |  |
|         | 3   |        |   |   | ■ | ■ | ■  | ■  |  |
|         | 4   |        |   |   |   | ■ | ■  | ■  |  |
|         | ... |        |   |   |   |   | ■  | ■  |  |
|         | 10  |        |   |   |   |   |    | ■  |  |

time →

**LEVEL OF RANDOMIZATION:** Schools or School Districts

**INTERVENTION:**

- School-based screening program implementation with a specified age range

**METHODS:** Stepped wedge aligning with program roll-out

**OUTCOMES MEASURED:** Uptake of T1D screening; % cases diagnosed at Stage 3 DKA; Teacher acceptance

## Conclusions

- A variety of study designs and methods are available to address intervention effectiveness and implementation
- Each study design has pros/cons
- Determine level of rigor needed & practical realities of evaluation (money, time, scope)
- Hybrid designs are great combinations of effectiveness and implementation studies
- New methods of pragmatic and adaptive trials are becoming more common

# Thank You

**ARIADNE LABS** is a joint center for health systems innovation at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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