



## KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION PORTFOLIO PORTEFEUILLE DE L'APPLICATION DES CONNAISSANCES

# Knowledge Translation at CIHR

April 2009



CIHR IRSC

Canada 



# Knowledge translation (KT) is part of our mandate...

## OBJECTIVE

4. The objective of the CIHR is to excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health care system, by ...



CIHR IRSC

Canada



# Knowledge translation at CIHR: Definition

Knowledge translation is a dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically sound application of knowledge to improve the health of Canadians, provide more effective health services and products and strengthen the health care system.

This process takes place within a complex system of interactions between researchers and knowledge users that may vary in intensity, complexity and level of engagement depending on the nature of the research and the findings as well as the needs of the particular knowledge user.





# KT definition components

## Knowledge synthesis

- The contextualization and integration of research findings of individual research studies within the larger body of knowledge on the topic
- Synthesis is a family of methodologies for determining what is known in a given area or field and what the knowledge gaps are

## Dissemination

- Involves identifying the appropriate audience for the research findings, and tailoring the message and medium to the audience

## Knowledge exchange

- Refers to the interaction between the knowledge user and the researcher resulting in mutual learning
- Encompasses the concept of collaborative or participatory, action-oriented research where researchers and knowledge users work together as partners to conduct research to solve knowledge users' problems (Integrated KT, AKA co-production of knowledge, Mode 2)

## Ethically-sound application of knowledge

- The iterative process by which knowledge is actually considered, put into practice or used to improve health and the health system
- KT activities must be consistent with ethical principles and norms, social values as well as legal and other regulatory frameworks

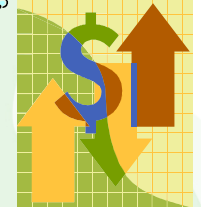


# Knowledge translation is the bridge between discovery and impact

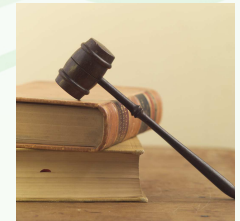
(KT research and practice)



Research outputs



Research impacts



KT is about making a difference





# What is “knowledge translation”?

- **Knowledge translation research (KT Science)** is about:
  - Studying the determinants of knowledge use and effective methods of promoting the uptake of knowledge
- **Knowledge translation (KT)** is about:
  - Making users aware of knowledge and facilitating their use of it to improve health and health care systems
  - Closing the gap between what we know and what we do (the know-do gap)
  - Moving knowledge into action





# Two broad types of KT at CIHR

## End-of-grant KT

- The researcher develops and implements a plan for making knowledge users aware of the knowledge generated through a research project

## Integrated KT

- Research approaches that engage potential knowledge users as partners in the research process
- Requires a collaborative or participatory approach to research that is action oriented and is solutions and impact focused
- For example, the knowledge user partner helps to define the research question and is involved in interpreting and applying the findings



# More about integrated KT

- Integrated KT:
  - Is a way of doing research (i.e., an approach, not a method)
  - Is collaborative, participatory, action-oriented research; co-production of knowledge
  - Involves engaging and integrating **knowledge users** into the research process
- Knowledge users can be:
  - Policy makers, decision makers, researchers, the public, industry, clinicians, the media
  - Investigators from different disciplines, teams, countries





# More about integrated KT

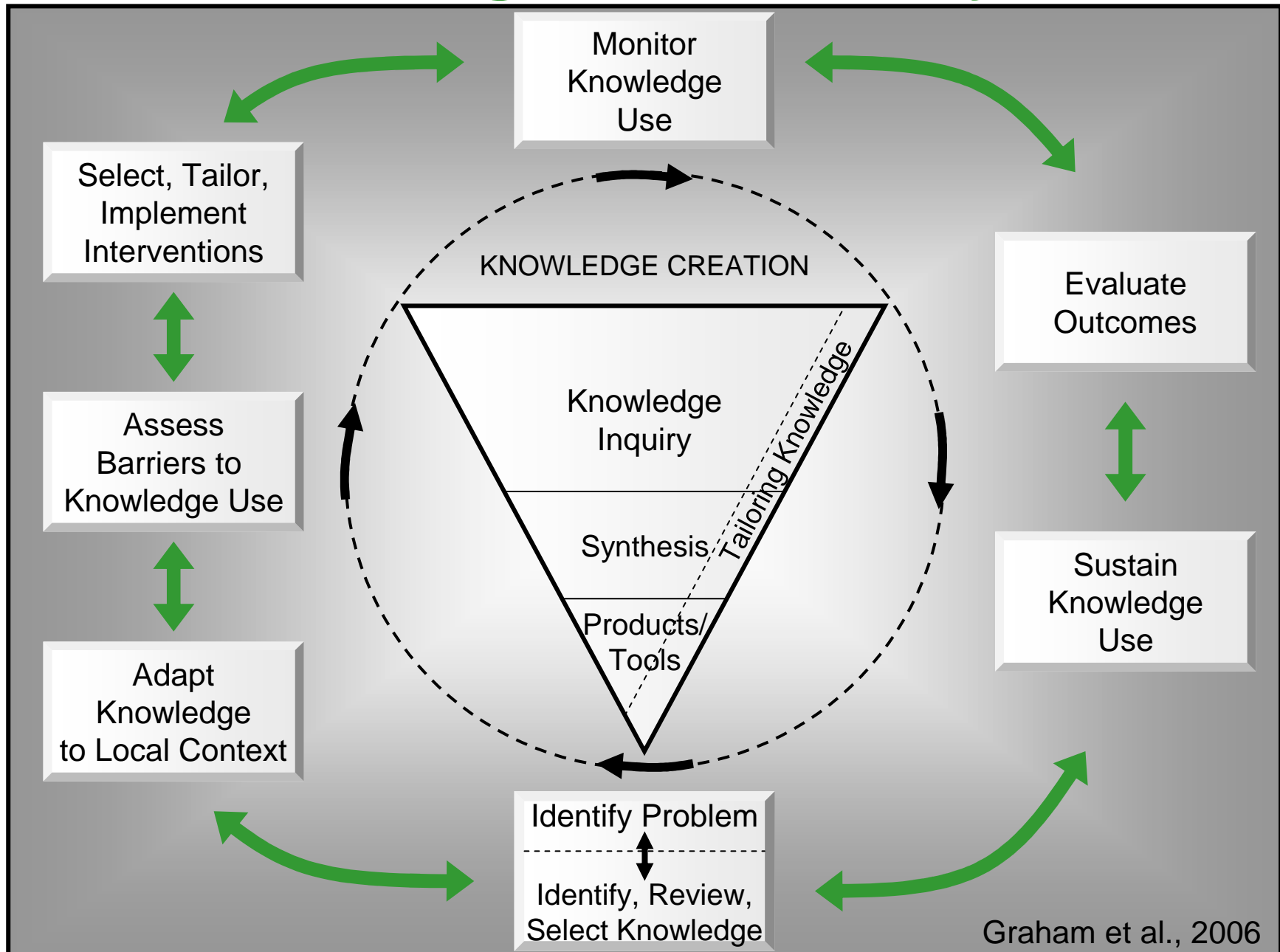
- As a minimum requirement for conducting integrated KT, knowledge users and researchers must work together to:
  - Shape the research questions
  - Interpret study findings and craft messaging around them
  - Move the research results into practice



# More about integrated KT

- ... In addition, knowledge users and researchers (knowledge creators) can work together to:
  - Shape the research questions
  - Decide on the methodology
  - Help with data collection and tools development
  - Interpret study findings and craft messaging around them
  - Move the research results into practice
  - Conduct widespread dissemination and application

# Knowledge-to-Action Cycle





## Warning: Beware of the “KT imperative”

- The “KT imperative” is the perceived need to do **everything** to encourage **everyone** to apply their research findings
- Results from a single research study should be contextualized within a synthesis of global research results before **extra-ordinary** dissemination or implementation efforts are undertaken – hence the importance of synthesis
- We need to bring common sense as well as academic rigour to bear on our decisions about the degree and intensity of KT activities warranted by a single research study – i.e., judicious KT





# Examples of CIHR KT Funding Opportunities

## KT Focus

## Funding mechanisms

### Synthesis

- CIHR funds the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre
- Knowledge Synthesis

### Integrated KT

- Partnerships for Health System Improvement (PHSI)
- Knowledge Synthesis
- Knowledge to Action
- Proof of Principle
- Meeting, Planning and Dissemination grant – KT (to develop collaborative relationships and grant proposals)

### End of Grant KT

- KT Supplement Grants
- Meeting, Planning and Dissemination grant – End-of-Grant KT Supplement (to disseminate results)

### Science of KT

- Operating grants competition - KT Panel

### Training

- Doctoral Research Awards, New Investigators Awards, Fellowships, Health Research Communications Award



# Examples of CIHR KT-related policies

- **CIHR Policy on Access to Research Outputs**
  - All publications generated from CIHR-funded projects must be freely accessible through the Publisher's website or an online repository within six months of publication
  - Supports our desire to expedite awareness of and facilitate the use of research findings by increasing ease of access to research
- **Registration and disclosure of outcomes and results of clinical trials**
  - All CIHR-funded randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are required to register with an International Standard Randomised Controlled Trial Number (ISRCTN)
  - Basic information about each RCT is posted on the website of the ISRCTN Register ([www.controlled-trials.com](http://www.controlled-trials.com))
  - Helps to ensure access to information about CIHR-funded RCTs





# Examples of other CIHR KT-related initiatives

- **CIHR Guides to Knowledge Translation**
  - Intended for use in all CIHR Funding Opportunities with KT requirements, to assist with application preparation and review
  - Separate guides for integrated KT and for end-of-grant KT
  - Separate guides for reviewers and for applicants
  - Five KT assessment factors: Goals, Audience, Expertise, Strategies, and Feasibility
- **KT Capacity Development Plan**
  - Objective: An increase in the number of health researchers and knowledge users who understand KT concepts and actively incorporate such activities into their work
  - Examples of deliverables: KT handbook, KT course modules, KT summer institute, KT training for STIHRs, network of KT-funded trainees, synthesis fellowships, community of practice for synthesis, KT capacity development for policy makers

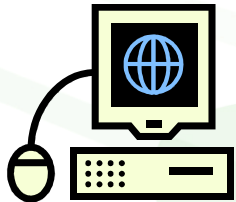


## For More Information



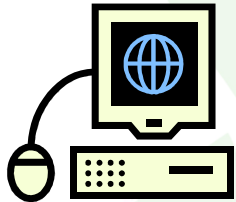
**Website:** About Knowledge Translation

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29418.html>



**Website:** CIHR Funding Opportunities

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/780.html>



**Website:** CIHR Partnerships

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/27335>



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