

Third International Conference on Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking Research

PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP SUMMARY



Dissemination and Implementation Training for Waterpipe Research

November 9, 2017

American University of Beirut

One of the critical challenges in advancing tobacco control, including control of waterpipe tobacco smoking, is the effective implementation of evidence-based policies and interventions. A substantial evidence base now exists to support a range of tobacco control policies and interventions in a variety of settings. The World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and MPOWER strategies provide guidance and support for global tobacco control efforts. However, effective implementation is essential to ensure that policies and programs have their desired impact.

Implementation Science (IS) is a field of inquiry that investigates methods and tools for bringing evidence from biomedical and healthcare research to public health practice and policy. This type of research considers not only individual factors influencing behaviors and attitudes toward poor-health outcomes, but also structural factors such as health systems and health policy that can affect access to proper health and treatment. The methods and concepts of implementation science can provide a useful framework for guiding research on waterpipe tobacco use that is likely to have an impact on public health.

The goals of this one-day training are to introduce concepts from the field of implementation research and highlight the important role of research in supporting effective tobacco control policies and interventions. The workshop will emphasize low-cost validated methodologies and existing data resources, and will also discuss strategies for the translation of evidence to policy around waterpipe tobacco use. The objectives are (i) to provide an overview of tools, methodologies, and data resources for waterpipe tobacco research and implementation science; (ii) to demonstrate cases of successful international collaborations using such tools and resources; (iii) and to present existing training, mentorship, and collaboration resources, (iv) and to provide an opportunity to interact with experts.

Target Audience

This pre-conference workshop is aimed primarily at investigators and public health professionals who are conducting research or making use of research findings in their work to guide tobacco control activities. Participants are encouraged to bring plans for a research project for discussion and feedback.

Learning Objectives

After attending the webinars and the in-person training, participants will, more specifically, be able to:

1. Define implementation science (IS) and discuss its applications to waterpipe tobacco research.
2. Understand how to formulate an IS research question.
3. Identify existing data and research resources to support IS related to waterpipe use.
4. Describe examples of successful international research collaborations using implementation science strategies.
5. Develop a research proposal to support a waterpipe related IS research project in their country/community.

Sponsors

U.S. National Cancer Institute, American University of Beirut (AUB)

