

Reviewer's report

Title: Riding the Knowledge Translation Roundabout: Lessons learned from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Summer Institute in Knowledge Translation

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Reviewer: Heather Buchan

Reviewer's report:

This is an enthusiastic report of a knowledge translation workshop held in Canada in 2008. The authors aim to share the curriculum, document their experiences, and present some of the key lessons learned. The topic has the potential to be of interest and value to a number of agencies given the increased focus on knowledge translation in the research world, and the authors note (on p9) that this model may be helpful to inform training initiatives internationally.

Major compulsory revisions: To achieve the aim of helping to inform training initiatives internationally, and to be of value to the agencies that would be involved, the report needs to contain a lot more detail about the rationale behind the curriculum, the intended audience, the criteria for selecting the applicants, the intended aims and outcomes for the workshop, what worked best and what didn't. However writing a report of this type would involve active participation of one of the faculty. If this is not possible, this report would still have value and interest as a participant experience report but I think needs to be a lot more involving for the reader. The curriculum is provided, but only one presentation is fleshed out in terms of what was covered and there is relatively little documentation of the experiences of the participants. Some more description of the small group task the five were given, showing how the content and process of undertaking the task contributed to the lessons learned would be helpful. Similarly some more discussion of how the content provided by the various presenters illustrated the lessons learned would add to the interest and sense of engagement for the reader. I would have found it interesting to know more about how the authors had answered question 1, table 1 in the their application and how this workshop has changed what they are doing or intending to do with respect to knowledge translation in their current research project or plan. What advice would they give to the workshop organisers for any future programmes.

Writing up the workshop is a good idea – I think a number of people and organisations would be interested in a report, but the interest for many readers would not be so much in the lessons learned but in the process that led to this. This would make the paper much more lively and engaging.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No financial competing interests. I have been responsible for funding, designing and delivering knowledge translation programmes to Australian clinicians.