

Keynote Lectures

K3 – Introducing Implementation Science – Linking Research and Practice



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Professor Per Nilsen is a Professor in Department of Medicine and Caring Sciences at Linköping University, Sweden. He has developed a doctoral-level implementation course, which has run annually since 2011, attracting PhD students from all over world. Nilsen visited the Chinese University of Hong Kong one semester in 2017, giving implementation lectures and seminars. He takes particular interest in issues concerning behaviour and practice change and the use of theories, models and frameworks for improved understanding of implementation. His research interests can be traced to his varied background, including behavioural economy at the Stockholm School of Economics and systems development.

The word “implement” is derived from the Latin “implere”, meaning “to fulfil” or “carry into effect”. This provides a basis for a broad definition of implementation science as the scientific inquiry into questions concerning how to carry intentions into effect. The intentions may be formulated in policies, clinical guidelines or other recommendations; they can be manifested in specific interventions; and they can relate to the use of research in decisions by individuals and organizations.

The birth of implementation science is usually linked to the emergence of the evidence-based movement in the 1990s, which popularized the notion that research findings and empirically supported (“evidence-based”) interventions should be more widely implemented in healthcare and other settings for improved health and welfare of populations. The field of implementation science has identified many challenges that exist when translating research into practice and investigated strategies to address these obstacles.

The keynote lecture by Professor Per Nilsen from Linköping University, Sweden, provides an overview of the implementation science field and summarizes knowledge about barriers to implementation and facilitators and strategies to overcome challenges to achieve a more evidence-based healthcare practice.