Center on Knowledge Translation for Technology Transfer

Award Abstract

The objective of this project is to study and apply the theory and practice of Knowledge Translation (KT) to the knowledge outputs of NIDRR technology grantees. Goals of this project are improved understanding of barriers to accomplishing KT for technology transfer (TT) and carriers to overcome them, advanced knowledge of the best models, methods and measures for accomplishing KT for TT, and increased utilization of the validated best practices for KT for TT by the NIDRR grantees. Research Project 1 synthesizes current knowledge about KT theory and practice related to accomplishing technology transfer outcomes; establishes parallel models of practices for both knowledge translation and technology transfer; and creates an operational framework for the Knowledge To Action (KTA) model, by applying the technology transfer methods and measures promulgated by the Product Development Manager's Association (PDMA), to create counterparts in knowledge translation. Project 2 establishes parameters for defining new knowledge as an innovation, and establishes Grantee Innovation Profiles for participating RERC and SBIR grantees in wheeled mobility, sensory, and environmental access technology areas; and interviews representatives for the six categories of knowledge users (i.e., researchers; manufacturers; clinicians, policy makers; consumers; brokers), to establish Knowledge Value Profiles for each user category. Research Project 3 conducts a series of six intervention studies in the three technology areas. They communicate a series of randomly selected innovations to the six user categories, either through standard knowledge dissemination practices, or through knowledge translation practices applied through the operational Knowledge To Action model. Development Project 1 conducts a series of at least six technology transfer demonstration projects, working in collaboration with corporate partners, while RERC and/or SBIR grantees interact as participant observers. Development Project 2 creates a knowledge base consisting of a data base structure customized for access by each category of knowledge user based on their respective value systems, along with all DRRP training materials publicly available in accessible and usable forms. A Utilization Project encourages NIDRR grantees to use the DRRP's materials, and implement the operational Knowledge To Action Model, through a multi-method involving coordinated dissemination, training and technical assistance projects. This project also promotes the diffusion and utilization of innovative research-based knowledge by targeting each of the six categories of knowledge users with a parallel coordinated program of the same multiple methods.