Reviewer’s report

Title: Bridging the Gap between Basic Science and Clinical Practice: A Role for Community Clinicians

Version: 1 Date: 25 June 2008

Reviewer: Lee Green

Reviewer’s report:

The investigators address an important problem: bringing community practitioners into the research enterprise, and bringing the research enterprise to the community. They do so by conducting a semi-structured qualitative interview investigation with a snowball sample of practitioners and other key informants, and develop recommendations from the interview findings. The interview framework evolved appropriately over the course of the interview series, as information from interviews was analyzed. The major limitation of the self-report method is acknowledged.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. In general the background frames the issues well. However, the representation of the placebo-controlled trial as the gold standard of effectiveness is miscast. The RCT is the gold standard, whether the control is placebo or usual care.

2. One major area of clinical epidemiological thought and literature is absent. The authors are basically calling for implementing the RE-AIM model (www.re-aim.org) but do not cite it nor consider the body of literature derived from it.

3. The selection of the starting points (initial key informants) for the snowball analysis should be noted. Whether this may have led to the omission of any significant viewpoints should be addressed in the discussion.

4. Some additional detail on the qualitative analysis is necessary. Was the weekly analysis by informal consensus conference, or was a formal method (e.g., immersion crystallization, coding, and theme abstraction) employed? Was there any member checking with the informants?

- Minor Essential Revisions

- Discretionary Revisions

1. Much of what appears under Results, in the form of suggested solutions to the barriers identified, seems better placed in Discussion. Results might best be limited to presenting the themes identified in the analyses.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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