



SISN Annual Report 2017

 THE SOCIETY
FOR IMPLEMENTATION
SCIENCE IN NUTRITION

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GOAL 1. Advance the theory, methods, conduct and capacity for implementation science (IS) in nutrition

Objective 1: Articulate and promote the distinctive theory & methods of IS for nutrition

- The six strong **Methods Working Group**, chaired by Dr Gretel Pelto, was formed in early 2017. The main activity of the group in 2017 was to develop a brief survey to scope the membership experience, issues, and needs in relation to implementation research (IR) methods in nutrition. The survey will be implemented in the 2nd quarter of 2018 and the results will be used to inform how SISN can support its members and the broader nutrition community on methods for IR. The Group's terms of reference (ToR) can be viewed [here](#).
- The SISN Board submitted "*Implementation Science in Nutrition: Concepts and Frameworks for an Emerging Field of Science and Practice*" (D. Pelletier, et.al.) for peer review. It is expected to publish in **Current Developments in Nutrition** mid-2018.
- SISN hosted two, well-received, **webinars**:
 - Presented in June by SISN President, Dr David Pelletier, "[An Integrative Framework for IS in Nutrition](#)" promoted a common understanding of core concepts in IS and IR, and introduced SISN's integrative framework for IS and a classification scheme for IR in nutrition. The webinar attracted over 90 attendees and was disseminated widely by other relevant organizations and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) focal points.
 - Hosted in October, "[Why Invest in IR?](#)", featured case studies presented by Dr Eva Monterrosa, Sight and Life (SAL), Dr Alison Tumilowicz, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and Giulia Baldi, World Food Programme (WFP) and was followed by an audience Q&A session facilitated by Dr Gretel Pelto.
- SISN worked jointly with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the SUN Secretariat on the "**Knowledge for Implementation & Impact Initiative**" (KI3). SISN is leading a process to learn the types of IR being done to identify and/or address implementation bottlenecks in nutrition-specific and selected nutrition-sensitive actions in SUN countries. The SISN portion of the work is supported by a generous donation from SAL. A brief on the SISN framework for the SUN Secretariat was shared with their focal points and partners and can be found [here](#).

Objective 2. Facilitate setting research agendas at global, regional and national levels

In August, SISN and the **International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)** successfully submitted a grant proposal to the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** on "*Expanding implementation research in support of nutrition programs*". The grant provides funding for three years to improve implementation and scaling-up of anemia control programs for women and children in Kenya and Uganda. Dr Isabelle Michaud-Letourneau was hired as Senior Technical Expert to provide on-going technical assistance and knowledge brokering to each country's core team during the grant period. SISN will also be applying a developmental evaluation approach to understand the ways IR influenced decision making and programmatic changes. The money will

also be used to further disseminate findings from the research via blogs, webinars, and publications.

Objective 3: Participate in, organize and/or shape conferences

- At **Experimental Biology**, April 25, Chicago, USA, Dr Pelletier, Dr Lynnette Neufeld (GAIN) and Dr Rachel Sturke, Fogarty Division of International Science Policy, Planning and Evaluation at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), delivered a symposium on *[“Implementation Research in Nutrition: Purposes, Methods and Applications”](#)*.
- At the **US Department of Agriculture (USDA)** in Washington DC, USA in June, Dr Pelletier gave a presentation on IR/IS in nutrition and SISN to the US Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan Implementation Science Sub-Group.
- At the **Global Health Mini-University**, September 14, Washington DC, SISN co-hosted an innovative session with GAIN and Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING), entitled *[“Diagnose, Design, Deliver, Redesign: Applying Implementation Science to Nutrition”](#)*.
- SISN were very active at the **International Union of Nutritional Sciences-International Congress of Nutrition (IUNS-ICN)**, October 15-20, Buenos Aires, Argentina and co-hosted two symposia:
 - IFPRI & SISN: *[“Using implementation research to build better multi-sectoral programs for improving maternal and child nutrition outcomes”](#)*
 - Nutrition International (NI) & SISN: *[“Evidence-based integration of nutrition across multiple sector programs: how can this be done?”](#)*
- In November, as part of the **K13** initiative, SISN, IFPRI and the SUN Secretariat co-hosted a workshop at the SUN Global Gathering in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on *[“Sharing Knowledge, Methods, and Experiences on Implementation: How can SUN Countries Better Implement Priority Actions?”](#)*

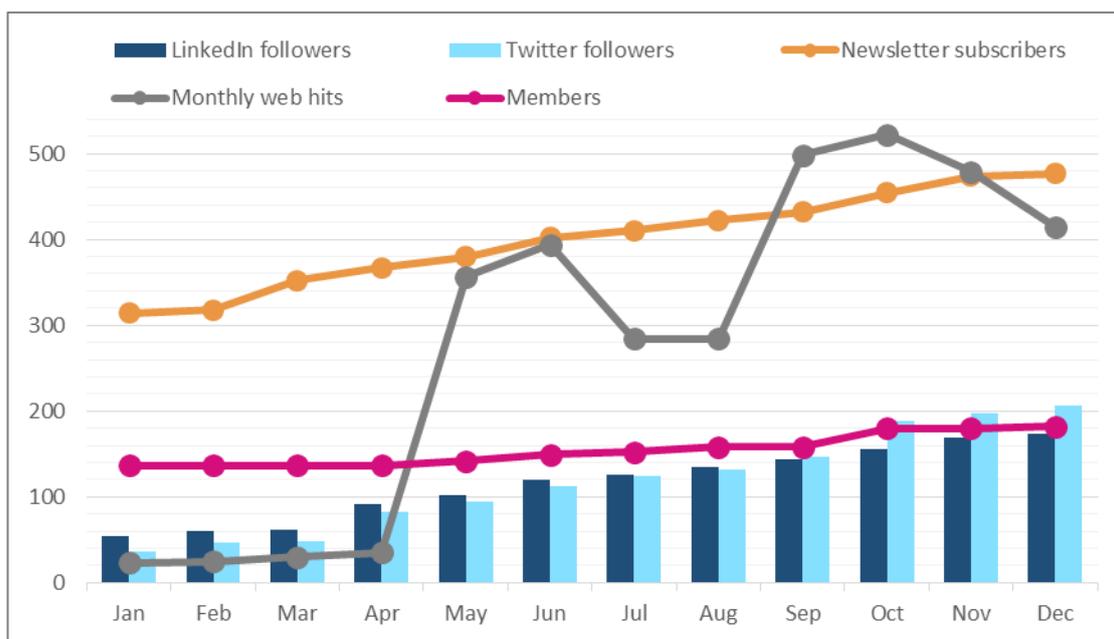
GOAL 3. Create and maintain an innovative and effective IS knowledge management system

Objectives:

- 1. Maintain an up-to-date, accessible, relevant website**
 - 4. Deploy digital dissemination strategies and platforms**
 - 5. Disseminate knowledge products (briefs, commentaries, FAQs, etc.), developed by SISN work groups, members or other organizations**
- SISN's communications activity is delivered by a small team of part-time staff: Communications expert and Registered Nutritional Therapist, Caroline Skirrow; Dietician and writer, Dr Naomi Cahill; SISN Operations Manager, Kesso Gabrielle van Zutphen. The actions of the team are directed by the Communications Working Group consisting of Dr Pelletier, Dr Monterrosa, Dr Luz Maria De-Regil, Dr Gilles Beregon, Dr Cahill, Ms Skirrow (Chair) and Ms van Zutphen. The ToR can be found [here](#).

- In April 2017, SISN re-launched its website to provide a hub from which to disseminate information on all its activities. www.implementnutrition.org includes sections on the Society's background, mission and governance. It also provides an extensive resources area populated with key SISN documents, news, informational and educational blogs and webinars.
- We distributed a quarterly **newsletter** which highlights key news and events for the Society and key research and opportunities relevant to our audiences. These are archived on the website if you need to review past issues.
- We posted **blogs** on a monthly basis covering a variety of topics on the workings of the Society, the SISN framework and case studies to illustrate the impact of IR in practice.
- We delivered two live **webinars**, details of which have been given under Goal 1.
- We became more active on **LinkedIn** and **Twitter** in order to extend our reach and visibility and to become more engaged with our followers and members. Our major social media activity to date has been around events.

Figure 1: SISN Digital Reach 2017



GOAL 4. SISN's members are inclusive of all stakeholder categories required for its mission

Objective 1: Deploy continuous recruitment, outreach and retention strategies

Led by Dr Karin Lapping, the **Membership Working Group** includes Dr Monterrosa and two volunteer members, Dr Renee Wurth and Dr Andrea Warren. The working group's strategy, which considers approaches to attract and retain members and encourage member engagement, was approved by the Board in April. The Group's ToR can be found [here](#).

At **IUNS-ICN**, SISN also hosted a number of engagement activities to allow members to meet the Board and ask them about IR, as well as the work of the Society itself. These included:

- SISN working '**Cafés**' with Board Members, Dr Tumilowicz (*Practical Challenges & Approaches to Undertaking IR*), Dr Pelto (*Using Mixed Methods in Process Evaluations: Benefits & Challenges*) and Dr Luz Maria De-Regil (*Platiquemos sobre la investigación para implementar programas de nutrición*). The Society's President, Dr Pelletier, also hosted an enlightening tour of key posters relevant to IR.
- The SISN **Travel Award** went to SISN member and PhD student, Morseda Chowdhury. **This award of \$700** was provided to assist a student or early career SISN member with the cost of attending IUNS-ICN. To be considered, candidates were asked to share their thoughts in a brief video describing "*How you would use IR to improve the design and implementation of iron-folate intervention during pregnancy in your country of residence*".

GOAL 5. Ensure that SISN is well-governed, well-managed, appropriately resourced, accountable and sustainable

- **Governance:** April 2017 was a particularly significant month for the Society with many key actions taking place:
 - Sight and Life's Dr Klaus Kraemer accepted his nomination as the Fundraising Councillor.
 - SISN held an in-person board meeting at Experimental Biology in Chicago, USA.
 - The Board voted to postpone the Society's elections by one year, to July 2018. A full explanatory statement from the Board was published and can be found [here](#).
 - The Society developed financial and conflict of interest policies.
 - SISN was officially incorporated as a charity in the USA.
- **Secretariat:** The Secretariat is led by Dr Monterrosa, ably supported by Ms van Zutphen who transitioned from full-time to part-time Operations Manager.
- **Financial management:** A **Finance Committee** was established in October 2017 consisting of Dr Mandana Arabi (Chair), Dr Monterrosa, Dr Mark Fyars (Volunteer). The ToR can be found [here](#).
- **Funding:**
 - SISN secured a \$50,000 grant from the **Eleanor Crook Foundation** to be used primarily for education and dissemination activities in 2018 and beyond.
 - In November 2017, SISN signed a sub-award from **3ie** \$311,803 USD for three years. The grant writing process lasted six weeks and the award will be used to pay for technical assistance, travel, and dissemination activities.
 - Funding for Society operations of was provided by **SAL** as follows:

Breakdown of SAL funding	Amount USD	% of total expenditure
Programmatic Expenses	44,713.49	42%
Research Expenses	13,200.00	12%
Promotional Expenses	7,632.89	7%
Operational Expenses	42,039.41	39%
Total	107,585.79	