

The NIH Director's Pioneer Award Meets Biostatistics: Next up, the meeting of environmental health and implementation science?

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Abstract

In August, 2017, I will launch Year 4 of my five year NIH Director's Pioneer Award, administered by NIEHS. Over its history, I am the first biostatistician and the second epidemiologist to receive this award (I am both a biostatistician and an epidemiologist by training and practice). The goals of this award concern the development and promulgation of advanced methods to facilitate implementation science and large scale public health evaluations, thereby achieving the trademark Pioneer "high risk/high reward" objective of re-orienting my career focus from etiologic research and statistical methods arising from such work, especially as had concerned methods to adjust for bias due to exposure measurement error. In this talk, I will provide an overview of basic concepts in implementation science and the overlap of methods used with methods constituting the traditional epidemiologic and biostatistical tools. In addition, I will summarize the accomplishments thus far, and describe plans for the next two years. A particular interest is to stimulate discussion aimed at strengthening the implementation science approach to large scale public health evaluations in environmental health.