Need for Implementation Research in Japan’s Context

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Japan Agency for Medical Research & Development (AMED)

- established in 2015

- AMED’s mission is to fast-track medical R&D with an alliance and cooperativity of the ministries (CAO, METI, MEXT and MHLW)

- promotes and supports medical R&D from basic research to clinical research/trials continuously through funding

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R&Ds for drugs & medical devices

Basic Research → Application Research → Pre-Clinical Research → Clinical Research/Trials → Market/Clinical Use

AMED’s support ↔ Industries

Public health research

Epidemiological study → Intervention research in controlled settings

AMED’s support ↔ GAP? → Health authorities (national and/or local) / Industries

40% of AMED’s funding

5% of AMED’s funding

Social Implementation
AMED’s approach to implementation research

- In global health research
  - Collaboration with GACD is the most important opportunity
    - Joint calls
    - Joint reviews
    - Workshops
    - Discussion to develop its future strategy

- In domestic public health research
  - AMED supports some projects which include aspects of implementation science
  - AMED’s formal strategy of implementation research will be discussed during the development process for AMED’s upcoming 5-year research strategy (2020～)
Need for Implementation Research in Japan’s Context （1）

~ background ~

• Past success in improving people’s health status
  • salt intake ↓, smoking rate ↓,
    life expectancy ↑, cerebrovascular disease ↓

• Ongoing important issues
  • obesity rate ↑, diabetes ↑,
    elderly with diseases and disabilities ↑
    (including dementia)
Need for Implementation Research in Japan’s Context (2) ~ broadening the target ~

- Hypertension
- Heart and vascular diseases
- Diabetes
- Cancers, etc.

- Dementia, depression
- Frailty, loss of muscles (sarcopenia)
- Malnutrition, etc.

Multiple risks
Multiple morbidities

-Cause of premature death
-Cause of physical disability
-Cause of physical and mental/cognitive disability in elderly

Implementation in the real-world settings
Need for Implementation Research in Japan’s Context (3)
~ in the changing society ~

• Traditional health education and intervention
  • Was based on experiences of local communities
    • Living together, knowing each other, sharing lifestyles, etc.
  • Utilized ‘group dynamics’ to spread knowledge and encourage behavior change by local public health nurses

Society has been becoming fragmented and highly individualized:
  • Segmented by education, job, interest, economic status, etc.
  • Sources of health information: newspapers, TVs → web
  • Increase in foreign residents

• Need for a new strategy to reach and motivate people