

Principles into Practice: Realizing our Potential

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Abstract:

The vision of FCEI is to create “a world in which high quality Family Centred Early Intervention supports every deaf and hard of hearing child and family to achieve their best outcomes.” Input from professionals across the globe suggests variation within and across nations in the consistency and extent to which this vision is achieved (Holzinger, et al, 2016). Throughout the Congress, we are exploring how FCEI best-practice principles can be effectively translated into practice. Research is one component that needs to be leveraged to support this translational process. From a research perspective, realizing our collective vision requires investment in the quality and breadth of our science, pursuit of well-controlled intervention studies, and strategic efforts to translate evidence into practice.

This presentation will explore how we might advance our FCEI translational agendas through research. Several questions will be posed in an effort to examine where we are and where we need to go in the future in order to realize our collective potential. Each question will be explored using data and experiences from a large-scale longitudinal outcomes study of children who are hard of hearing. This will illustrate what we have learned, but will also highlight future directions and needs. Selected questions that will be addressed include: 1) What research gaps represent high priorities for the future?, 2) What important constructs in EI are we missing and how do we measure them?, and 3) How do we foster paradigm shifts that could promote the translation of research to practice? The critical need for intervention studies and implementation science will be emphasized as a route to realizing our potential.