**2018 Online KT Conference:**

**Engaging Ways to Engage Stakeholders**

Updates from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)

Robert Jaeger and Pimjai Sudsawad

Originally Recorded on November 5, 2018

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/hzj8ODV2XQM>

>> JOANN STARKS: To help us launch this 2018 conference, we will be hearing from Robert Jaeger, Director, and Pimjai Sudsawad, Knowledge Translation Coordinator of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research. Bob and Pimjai, are you ready to go?

>> PIMJAI SUDSAWAD: Okay. All right. So first I just want to say hello, and I would like to welcome everyone to the conference. My name is Pimjai Sudsawad, and I am the Knowledge Translation Program Coordinator at the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research, who is the funder of this KTDRR, who is hosting the conference today.

As Joann said, we have had this conference for this is the sixth year, and it's been very successful. We are very pleased for people's attention and interest in attending this conference, and I watch as the field also grows over the past decade. And the reason we have this conference, so then we will have a forum that we can share latest information, we would hear from experts in the field, in different areas of knowledge translation, and certainly today is about stakeholder engagement. And I hope that we will be able to, you know, attend the conference and hear new information together and sharing some ideas and also have lively discussion through the Chat box that has been very fruitful over the years, the Chat box, people are able to share information, have discussions, ask questions about certain things, about the conference.

I also would like to welcome attendees from international community. I heard that there's about 50% of the attendees today that will be coming from international community, including 32 country who is have registered, so we are very pleased to see that because certainly this is not something that is limited to just in the U.S.

So that's all I'd like to say for now. So, I am going to pass it on to Bob to tell you a little bit about NIDILRR and how we support the knowledge translation endeavor in research. Bob?

>> ROBERT JAEGER: Okay. Thanks, Pimjai.

Well, the first thing I want to say is that, you know, technology's great when it works, and it's not so great when it doesn't work. I am glad to be here as Director of NIDILRR. I was here in 1997 when I left academia to come to government, and it was my first time at what was then NIDRR, and we just had our 40th anniversary, and you know, I think we are in pretty good shape.

I want to compliment the efforts that are being made for KT, and I just have some thoughts. And I don't want anyone to take these thoughts the wrong way. Prior to KT, there was TT, technology transfer. And it was all about all these wonderful things that got developed, largely technological, and they got developed, and how does the technology transfer into the real world to help people and in particular people with disabilities?

And so, what I am hoping you guys can do is help us carefully define what knowledge translation is compared to what technology transfer is. So KT and TT, how are these similar, how are they the same? Because I think when we go out to the general public, to members of Congress, we have to have some at least semi-clear definitions of what these two things are. So, I would urge all of you to try to come together and say what's the difference between KT and TT, and in the middle of all of this is like the American Academy of Neurology released earlier this year a guideline for -

>> PIMJAI SUDSAWAD: It's auto consciousness.

>> ROBERT JAEGER: Yes, okay. And it took eight years to develop that guideline. So, the first sort of ground rule here is that all of this translation, be it technology transfer, knowledge translation, guidelines, it takes a long time because this guideline took eight years from the initial inception to coming forward. So, defining the timeframe is very, very important. Okay? And you know, for this community to exist and to be a success, we have to get you framed into reality. And we do that by doing some of the things that I am going to suggest here. And number one is what are success stories? And I am looking at the clock. How am I doing? 16 minutes after, so I've got another few minutes. Okay.

I came to NIDILRR from the VA Office of Research and Development, in which I served a role as a Director of Post-Deployment Health Services, and we brought the DARPA Revolutionizing Prosthetics Luke arm, Deka arm, most advanced prosthetic arm in the world from research to become purchased by the VA on a clinical basis for provision to veterans. When you look at that whole thing, it took over eight years. It involved a boat load of data collection. It involved a boat load of stuff for the FDA. But the thing is the device is now on the market, and the VA is purchasing these devices. Now, this is just one example. I don't have time on the call here to cite other examples. But when we talk about KT -- and I tried to position it next to tech transfer -- what are the successes for KT. I want everyone to think about that starting today, if I want to show a success story for KT, what is that success story. And I tried to illustrate with the AAM guideline, which took eight years. The DARPA Revolutionizing Prosthetics, which took eight years. So, what can we hold up to the world to say hey, here's the big KT success story? What is that success story? Because if we don't have a success story, we are not going to fair well.

I also want to follow and shift gears a little bit to some of the comments that I think it was Pimjai made that we've got folks from other countries on the call, and that's a really, really good thing. And you know, I would like very much that we build on this success that people in other countries are interested in this, you know, KT, and we've got other countries. And we've had at NIDILRR, when I was here before back in the early '90s, before I went on to other things and then ultimately came back, we had a wonderful international program with India, and you know, international stuff. I just think we've got to do it. We've got to do it. You know, the U.S. is not the fountain source of all wisdom and knowledge in the world. It's international. There's a lot of stuff, good stuff going on in other countries, and we've got to learn about it and build on it and exchange information. And so, I really, really want to encourage that maybe not as a result of this call, but just, you know, however it goes, that we exchange information between countries. And I've got some really good news. We've got Gordon Duff from Australia, who is really interested in KT, he is coming on a Fulbright in March or April of next year, and he is going to try to visit some of NIDILRR's KT Centers, and I want to get more information out about him because if there's others, you know, in the U.S. that aren't -- we aren't all plugged in, this guy is coming as a Fulbrighter, he will be here at NIDILRR for about a month. We've got to get him out and about and hear from him what's going on in Australia, and then he can hear from us what we've got going on.

>>JOANN STARKS: Yes. Thank you very much, Bob. That was great.