



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northeastern Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute collaborates on \$300,000 award to accelerate translation of healthcare research into practice

The Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute (HSyE) at Northeastern University and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at Tufts Medical Center have received a 3-year \$300,000 award from the William T. Grant Foundation to identify and evaluate strategies for more effectively translating research results into practice and policy. According to the National Institutes of Health, it takes on average roughly 18 years for research results to be adopted into widespread practice, significantly delaying their benefits to society. The award therefore will develop systems engineering and computer simulation models to help understand and improve this common problem in many fields, here focused on trauma-related mental health treatments for foster children.

Professor James Benneyan, HSyE executive director, states, “This is a significant problem affecting nearly all fields of medical research, and we are excited by the opportunity to collaborate on this award.” This research team will use a combination of qualitative and analytic methods to study the dynamics and significant factors influencing policy and decision makers’ use of research, with a goal of accelerating translation into policy and practice. A national expert in healthcare systems engineering, Dr. Benneyan stated “We also are excited by the increased recognition of the value that systems engineering can have on a wide range of important issues.” A special report to President Obama ([link](#)) recently encouraged greater use of systems engineering - as more commonly used in other complex systems - to improve clinical decision making, policy development, patient safety, delivery systems operations, outcomes, and overall costs.

The William T. Grant Foundation is a grant-making foundation that invests in research to advance theory, policy, and practice related to children and youth in the United States. By investing in high-quality research, the Foundation aims to ensure that young people from diverse backgrounds reach their fullest potential.

The mission of the Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute is to broadly improve healthcare through the integration of research, application, and workforce development in systems engineering methods. The Institute houses four federally-awarded healthcare systems engineering and patient safety centers, two coop and summer fellowship programs, and a post-doctoral development program, with core funding from the National Science Foundation, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Institutes of Health, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and dozens of health system partners.

For further information, please contact Sarah Benson, Events & Communications Coordinator in Northeastern University’s Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute at s.benson@neu.edu or visit www.hsyE.org.

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