



TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE RESEARCH AGENDA

Thematic Working Group
November 3, 2009

Two Overall Themes

Research integration is crucial

Expand the research paradigm

Theme #1:

Research integration is crucial

- Research agenda must be in the context of health service resources available

Theme #2:

Expand the Research Paradigm

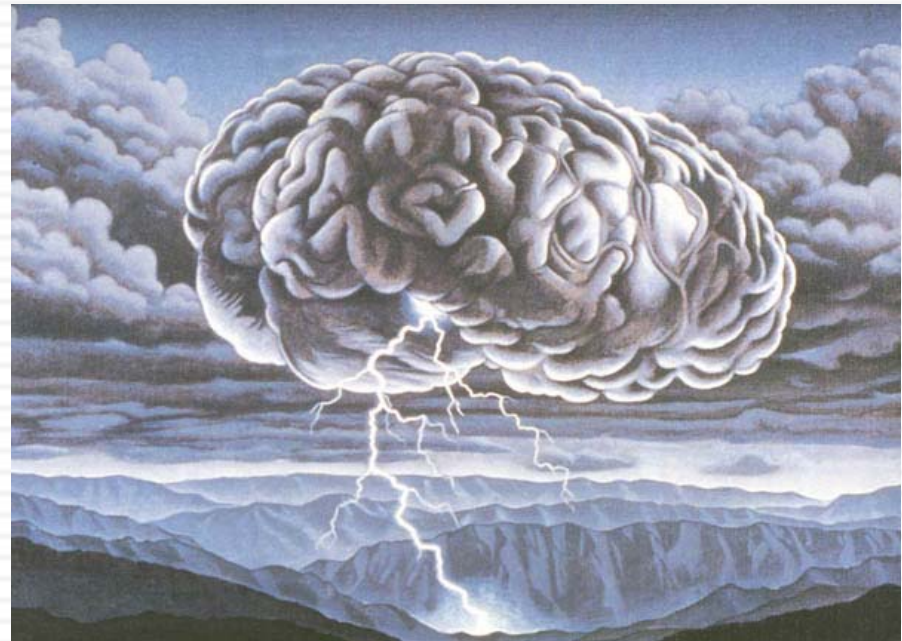
- Fewer resources presents an opportunity to think out of the box (ie traditional medicine from that culture)
- This will also increase buy-in.
- Information flows both ways.
- Value relationships & avoid academic colonialism



Brainstorming of Research Ideas

Types

- Burden of disease
- Prevention/screening
- Treatment
- Paradigm shifting
- Priorities/Cost-effectiveness



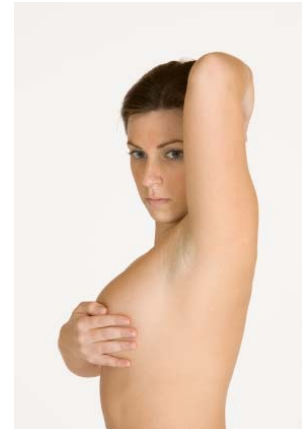
Burden of Disease

- What is the incidence/prevalence/mortality?
- What is stage distribution @ diagnosis?
- What % of those diagnosed complete treatment?

Need to create cancer registries!

Prevention and Screening

- What barriers keep ♀ from seeking breast health?
- Does literacy impact mortality?
- Can awareness alone ↓ mortality?
 - Antenatal clinic? Workplace? Cell phones? ↓
- Can self breast exam ↓ mortality?
- Can clinical breast exam ↓ mortality w/o mammograms?
- Do risk factors (reproductive, etc) differ?
- Does mental health influence breast ca and vice versa?
- Best training for providers to communicate w/population?



Treatment

- Surgery w/o imaging?
- Tamoxifen for all w/o testing receptors?



Paradigm shifting

- Bring together clinicians/researchers/public health/consumers?
- Community based participatory research?
- How to integrate research into practice?
- How to define & measure 'good practice'?
- Does engaging ethno-medicine ↑ support for conventional medicine?

Priority Setting & Cost Effectiveness

- How to balance screening & Rx?
- Does free/subsidized care ↓ mortality?
- Can non-MDs do breast surgery?
- Does compliance compromise CE of screening & Rx?
- Ethical/moral issues in setting priorities?



Final Note on All Interventions:

- Cost-effectiveness can be applied to all (awareness/SBE/CBE/mammograms, etc)
- Qualitative research important for acceptability



**BREAST CANCER IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD:
MEETING THE UNFORESEEN CHALLENGE TO
WOMEN, HEALTH AND EQUITY**

NOVEMBER 3 - 5, 2009
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
BOSTON, MA

www.hsph.harvard.edu/breastandhealth