

To effectively address many public health crises, clinicians and researchers will need to develop dynamic and uniquely suited to facilitate

interdisciplinary collaborations across universities and academe

and disseminating evidence based strategies for addressing the opioid crisis and collaboration across disciplines.

The Institute currently focuses on four targeted areas: Improving prescribing and pain management, improving addiction treatment, improving engagement of community resources and community partnerships, and facilitating bench to bedside discoveries and translation.

The Institute has led a three phase approach to facilitating interdisciplinary collaborations: 1) a campus wide planning and brainstorming phase to identify key leaders across many domains who are working on addressing the opioid epidemic, 2) a campus wide and public outreach, to publicize efforts and identify individuals who would potentially be interested in joining this effort, and 3) ongoing support for program development.

The Irving Institute has developed a university wide Steering Committee, comprised of individuals committed to opioid research, which meets quarterly to share ideas and identify areas for collaboration. Additionally, we have developed four working groups, comprised of researchers working in the focus areas described above. To foster collaboration, we routinely assess publications and presentations and have developed a database of interested researchers. This enables a researcher, for example, a pharmacist, to contact us asking for referrals.

These efforts nationwide can help disparate organizations and specialties work together to address a public health crisis. The methods developed by the Irving Institute are now being used to develop interdisciplinary approaches for other translational research challenges and public health crises.