

Building an Evidence-Based QPS Research Network in Ireland

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Background

Research evidence is important to inform and improve the quality and safety of patient care. The body of research globally is growing (St Pierre et al., 2022), but is relatively limited in Ireland (O'Connor et al., 2022).

A longitudinal study of adverse events in Ireland found no reduction in their number between 2009 and 2015 (Connolly et al., 2021), making it imperative to conduct meaningful research in Ireland, to address challenges and facilitate improvement.

Research networks promoting collaboration between different institutions and stakeholders are growing (Adams, 2012). Such networks may increase knowledge transmission (Adams, 2012) and trustworthiness (Nyirenda et al., 2020). In Great Britain, patient safety research collaborations addressing strategic priorities are believed to have impacted patient care positively, by informing evidence-based change (NIHR, 2022). However, there is little knowledge about how to make research networks successful, with most evaluations being anecdotal case studies (e.g., Wright, 2002).



EVIDENCE-BASED QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PATIENT SAFETY RESEARCH NETWORK

EQUIPS has three activity strands:

- 1. Enabling:** Puts in place **resources and events** to foster **collaboration** between members
- 2. Understanding & Informing:** defines **priorities and strategies** for QPS research in Ireland
- 3. Focussing:** The research “engine” of the network, comprising clusters of priority research areas, starting with **Implementation Science** and **Sociotechnical Systems**

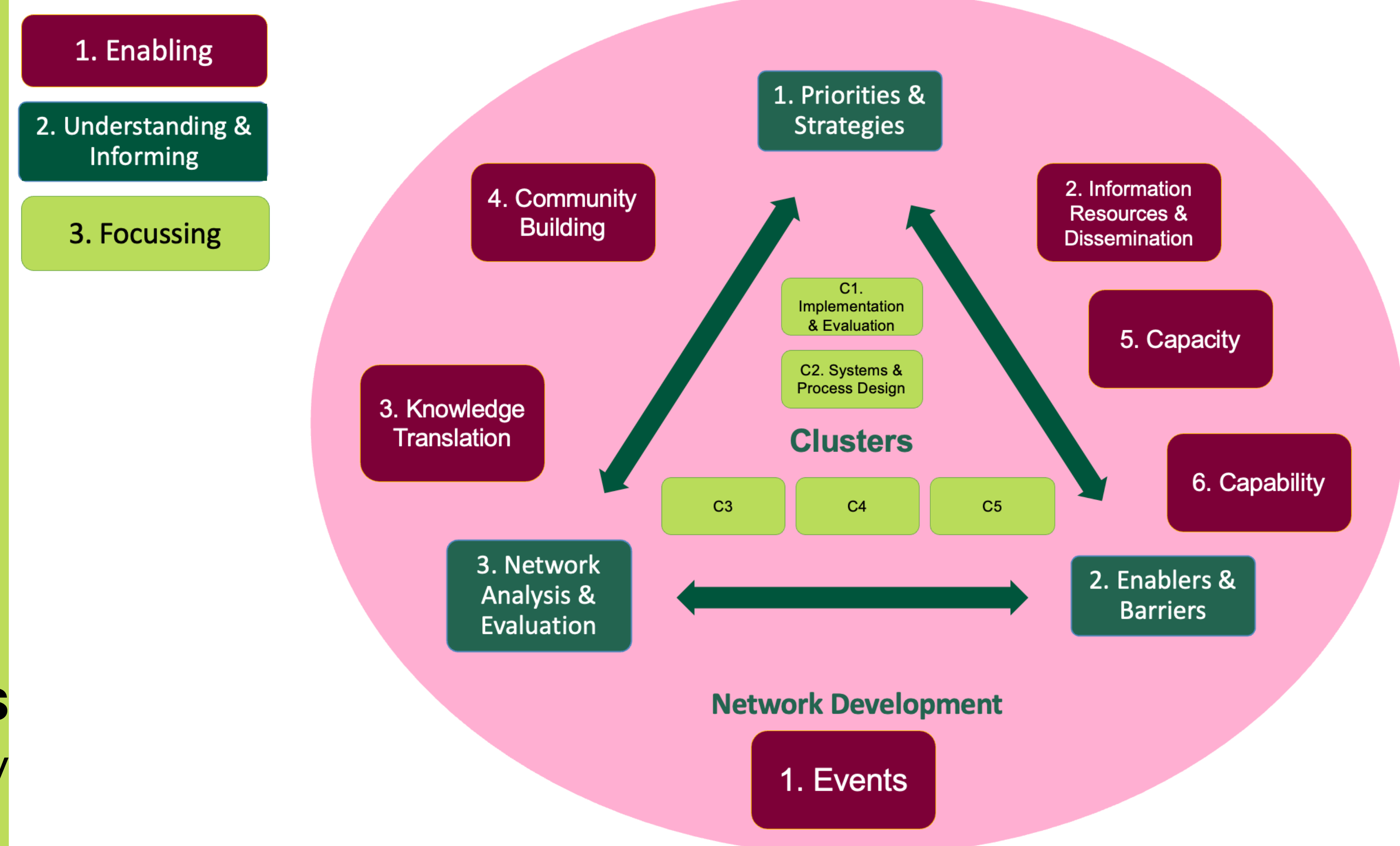
Each strand has a **patient partner**

EQUIPS also aims to collaborate with **international QPS networks**, to share knowledge and improve capability elsewhere.

Methodology

A new Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (EQUIPS) Research Network has been established. This project is funded by **HRB and HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate**. The Lead Knowledge User on the award is Dr Orla Healy (HSE NQPSD) and the Principal Investigator is Prof Sam Cromie (Trinity College Dublin).

The aim of EQUIPS is to **coordinate and accelerate** quality improvement and patient safety research in Ireland. It will do this through fostering collaboration with **academics, knowledge users, and patient and public partners**.

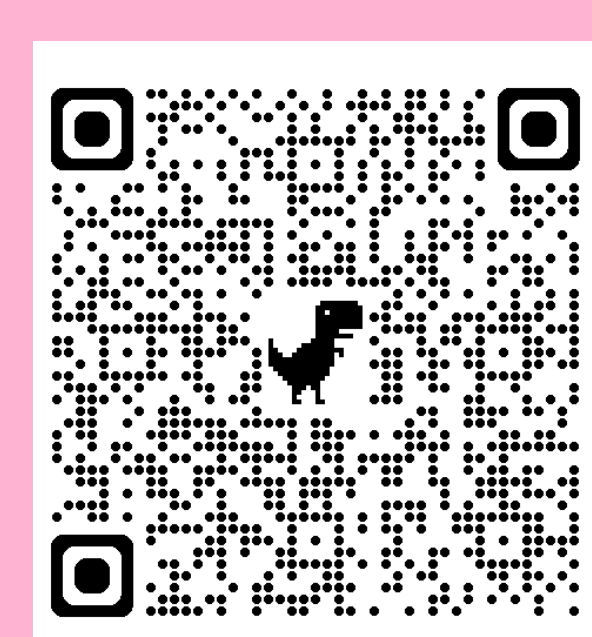


Discussion

It is hoped EQUIPS can serve as a **blueprint for building and sustaining similar research networks elsewhere**. For example, a particular strength of EQUIPS is its **inclusion of patient and public representatives**, which international QPS groups could model. Patient and public representatives are embedded within strands and in a separate **patient partner advisory board**.

Monitoring and evaluation activities can inform successful establishment of new groups by identifying activities which enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration. For example, a social network analysis study is planned to **identify knowledge brokers and thought leaders** in the network, to **enhance information sharing**.

Ultimately, the EQUIPS network aims to contribute **new knowledge** to both the Irish, and the global patient safety research landscape, to improve outcomes for patients.



Join EQUIPS at our
Inaugural In-person Event
2nd October, 2024
Trinity College Dublin



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