Suicide Prevention at Scale: The Twin Challenges of Implementation and Evaluation

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Prof. Navneet Kapur Professor of Psychiatry and Population Health at the University of Manchester, UK and an Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist at Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust. His research mostly targets epidemiological methods, the aetiology and treatment of suicide behaviour, as well as patient safety. His main contributions have been focussed in the area of health service responses to suicide. Prof. Kapur is particularly enthusiastic about the research work, because, even though clinical work can be very rewarding, research offers the possibility to impact on the lives of many people not just the person in front of you.

Abstract. Despite decades of research examining the epidemiology and aetiology of suicide we are light on research which tells what works for who. On top of that there is an implementation gap where the things we know might help fail to be adopted into routine practice. In this talk, I will discuss a number of strategies that could improve implementation of our research findings: carrying out the highest quality research to inform practice; messaging it simply; engaging with policy makers and the media; disseminating widely using different methods; supporting staff by developing training and implementation tools; implementing at both national and local levels; and of course persistence. I will then go on to discuss examples of large scale evaluations of suicide prevention strategies and policies before describing a major national initiative from the UK. This is ongoing and takes a phased approach to prevention led by local health areas themselves. The audience will be invited to consider potential challenges and solutions.