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From Research into Practice...and Policy

The presentation utilizes the crafting of the 2010 President's Drug Control Strategy as a case study of moving from basic and clinical research into national policy-with the attendant limits on inference. Despite 20 years of substantial NIH funding for, and findings from, prevention and treatment research projects, reviews of the accumulated data offer disappointing guidance on policy development. What may/should a research-oriented policy maker do in these situations and how may academic and field researchers help to better inform policy development?

The talk will be presented in two parts:

Part 1 will describe the major prevention and treatment priorities within the new drug control strategy and recount how the available evidence and inferences influenced specific strategy directions.

Part 2 will discuss evidence limitations in the Part 1 examples, distinctions between "evidence-based" and "evidence-guided" policies, and the cultural changes for a career clinical researcher (me) in trying to develop evidence-guided policies.