

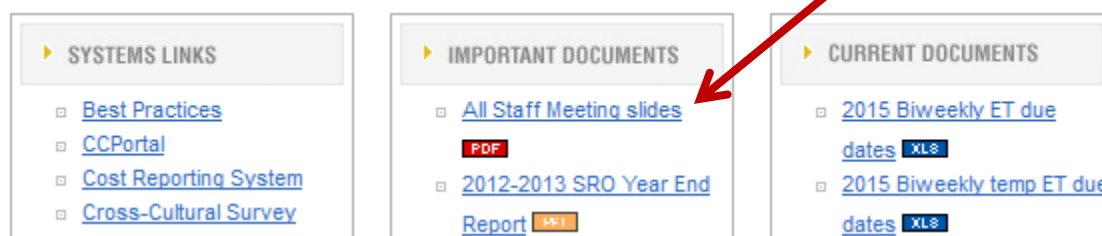
Happening in SRO

You can find this “Happening in SRO” and all similar updates on the SRO Intranet. Look for the Section titled: Did You Know?



Message from the Director

Our SRO All Staff Meeting at the end of January was chock full of content. In addition to Stephanie Chardoul's summary of upcoming projects and Ryan Neice's update on our finances, we had presentations from both Trivellore Raghunathan, our new SRC Director, and from Zeina Mneimneh, our new Research Scientist working in both SRO and the Survey Methodology Program. So, we were a little pressed for time. And as a result, I was asked to excerpt a few key points from my summary remarks at the end of the meeting for this edition of *SRO Happenings*. The full set of “All Staff Meeting Slides” is posted on our SRO home page, located at <http://webtrak.isr.umich.edu/sro/>



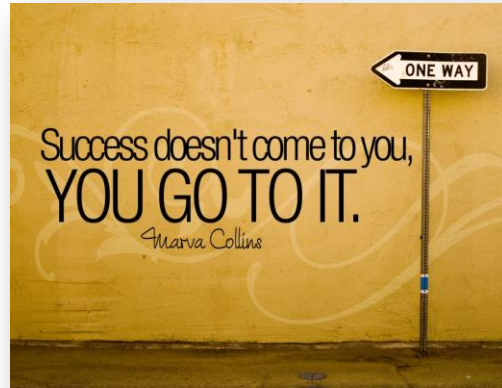
And thank you for providing systematic feedback on our meetings via the on-line form. We are constantly working to improve the utility of the meeting for everyone in the unit.

First, we are definitely on stable financial footing and our project portfolio includes small, medium and large-scale projects – covering local, national and international sample locations. These projects include centralized and decentralized data collection and web-based surveys (self-administered). We anticipate a higher volume of work next year compared with the current year. All of our current and upcoming work will keep SRO fully engaged and pushing our boundaries in our technical systems, operational efficiency and methodological experimentation and exploration. That said, I mentioned in our meeting that some colleagues are experiencing a little bit of downtime in the past few months as we waited for project awards and accounts to be set up. That should be smoothing out for nearly everyone in the next 2 months or so. This type of fluctuation is inherent in our industry and we use these opportunities to invest in some initiatives to improve our capabilities and tools that facilitate our work and maintain or improve our quality and efficiency in survey processes. Some of our current initiatives include Blaise 5, data collection quality control (OLIVE – Online Interview Verification and Evaluation), Time and Expense reporting system installation, and upgrades to financial systems servers. There are several others as well.

I also mentioned in my summary remarks how we work toward maintaining a mix of projects that challenge our talents, reward us, extend our capabilities and keep us pressing forward. The upcoming year will definitely provide that opportunity with the Health and Retirement Study's (HRS 2016) new components and screening sample, and the recently awarded Army STARRS Longitudinal Study (STARRS LS) to name just two projects. Though SRO is a project driven organization, we are not a collection of projects. We are an organization with diverse talents, enormous drive and the ability to rise to the challenges of our projects and bring lessons learned from each project back to our organizational infrastructure. This gives us the opportunity to apply this knowledge to the next project, thus supporting and extending the scientific output of the Survey Research Center and for all PIs with whom we work. Our ability to collaborate with our SRO and SRC colleagues and our scientific teams is an essential part of what makes us unique. I hope you find great satisfaction in your contributions to SRO, your colleagues, and our projects and remember...

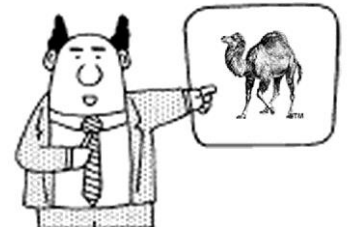
Thank you for all you do, each day, to make SRO successful.

~ Patty



SRO Spring Poster Session

The Survey Process Forum (SPF) is pleased to announce that we are presently coordinating an SRO Spring Poster Session. We believe that it is critical to the growth of our unit that we share information about recent findings, developments, and initiatives across the sub-groups of SRO. This is a way to learn from one another and apply our own learning to future projects. In much the same way that we gather and share this type of information at conferences, we felt that it was important to provide opportunities for staff to learn more about the work that we are doing right here in SRO. About ten SRO staff members will be presenting recent work that we think you will find interesting – there will be sessions on technical innovations, operations protocols, and methodological issues. Staff members have volunteered to provide short overviews of their work to share with their SRO colleagues, and they will be present to answer questions about their work as well. The session will take place:



**Tuesday, March 17
2:30 - 4:30 PM
Perry Atrium**

This is a new SPF activity that we hope will create more interest in sessions like this. We hope that you will decide to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there!

From the Archive

Kelly Chatain

In the summer of 1954, 1.8 million children in the United States participated in what has been called ‘the greatest public health experiment in history’¹, the Poliomyelitis Vaccine Field Trial. The trial was run by the University of Michigan’s Poliomyelitis Vaccine Evaluation Center, especially created as part of the proposal submitted by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which funded the work with \$7.5 million (\$66 million in today’s currency) famously collected through the March of Dimes. Much has been written about the trial and Jonas Salk, the creator of the vaccine, but did you know that the Institute for Social Research and the Survey Research Center made significant contributions to the study? Rensis Likert and Angus Campbell were on the Evaluation Center’s Advisory Committee, and SRC was asked to collect data on the characteristics of the children’s families to help evaluate any factors that may have affected whether the parents requested the inoculation or refused it.

A representative sample of 1300 families was drawn from the school districts that participated in the trial. Children’s names were chosen from school lists (the vaccine trials were conducted in the schools), so the 48 interviewers were given whatever contact information was available for the child and then ‘were pretty much on their own’ as far as locating the families². Mothers were the preferred respondent for each family, but any adult member of the family was eligible. The questionnaire was short, taking approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and included questions about the general objective health of the children, the kind of home and neighborhood they lived in, interests and characteristics of the parents, attitudes toward inoculation, and what they knew about polio.³ To avoid bias, the interviewers were not told whether the parent had chosen to have their child inoculated or had refused. The respondents also did not know that the survey was related to the vaccine trial in any way.

The study moved fast. The materials were mailed to interviewers by the end of November, with all completed interviews due by the end of December. Data entry/coding was completed just over two weeks later on January 19, 1955. The press conference releasing the results of the trial was held in Rackham Auditorium on April 12, 1955 amidst great fanfare⁴. SRC’s contribution was noted in the first press release, identifying significant differences between the non-participating and participating groups that were presented at a 99% level of confidence.⁵

The findings as stated in the summary report released in April:

1. “The frequency of vaccination against smallpox, diphtheria and whooping cough strongly correlated with participation.
2. Participants more frequently stated that “shots always work” than non-participants.
3. Mothers of participants were more likely to spend two or more evenings a week in outside activities than were mothers of non-participants.
4. Mothers of participants were more likely to have completed high school than mothers of non-participants.
5. A much smaller percentage of participants had family incomes under \$4,500. Participation rate increased steadily with increasing income.
6. The interviewer’s rating of the quality of the respondent’s neighborhood and condition of his house was highly correlated with participation status. Participants lived in better neighborhoods, and their homes were better kept.”

¹ <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-salk-polio-vaccine-greatest-public-health-experiment-in-history/>

² Memo Re: Polio Field Study, Charles Cannell, November 18, 1954, SRO Archive, Project 831

³ Instruction Booklet: Child Health Study, Project 831, December 1954, SRO Archive, Project 831

⁴ 1955 Polio Vaccine Trial Announcement, <https://sph.umich.edu/polio/> accessed February 24, 2015

⁵ Salk, Jonas. *An Evaluation of the 1954 Poliomyelitis Vaccine Trials: Summary Report*. Ann Arbor: Vaccine Evaluation Center, University of Michigan, 1955.

The Details:

Directed by Robert Voight and Thomas Francis, Jr.

Funded by National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis

1110 Interviews, 10-15 minutes in length

95% response rate at available addresses*, 1% refusal rate

Cost per interview (interviewer salary and travel) ranged from \$2.61 - \$4.29 (\$22.97 - \$37.75 in 2014)

*an unknown number of respondents were not able to be located and were not included in the overall response rate.

Excerpt of Questionnaire

-2-

5. Would you say in general that your children's (child's) health was:
(read alternatives)

Very good Good Fair Poor

6. Have your children (child) had shots for:

Flu or Cold? Yes Some of them have No Don't Know

Small pox? Yes Some of them have No Don't Know

Whooping cough? Yes Some of them have No Don't Know

Diphtheria? Yes Some of them have No Don't Know

- 6a. How well do you think shots like these work, generally, in preventing disease?

always work sometimes work rarely work never work don't know