**History.** The Topical Interest Group on Evaluation Use is one of the original TIGs of AEA. It was born of the interest in evaluation utilization in the 1970s, extending into both theoretical and empirical work on use in the 1980s and 1990s, and to a broader conceptualization of use and influence in the 2000s.

**Activities.** The Use TIG is in the process of developing a website, linked to the AEA TIG homepage and providing more details about the history and leadership of our TIG as well as seminal documents and current resources. We sponsor a session on current theory, research or practice to enhance use at our annual AEA business meeting.
EVALUATION USE TIG

OUR MISSION

The Use TIG is committed to understanding and enhancing the use of evaluation in a variety of contexts and to maximizing the positive influence of evaluation through both the evaluation process and the results produced.
Topics of interest to our members include:

- The influence of evaluation on systems.
- The social change role of evaluation.
- Research on evaluation use/influence.
- Strategies for enhancing the use/impact of evaluation.
- Critical reflection on intended and unintended influences of evaluation—both positive and negative.
- Research on effective communication strategies.
- Theories of use.
- Metaevaluation of evaluation impact.
- Issues of validity as a property of use.
- Effective communication of evaluation results.
- Organizational change/organizational learning.
- Use-enhancing evaluation methods.
- Evaluation as a tool for social justice.
- Process use.
- Barriers to the use of evaluation.
2006 Executive Committee
Karen E. Kirkhart, Chair
Valerie J. Caracelli, Past Chair
Susan A. Tucker, Program Co-Chair
Emma Norland, Program Co-Chair
Sandy Taut, Member-at-Large
**Session 242. 11:05 AM to 12:35 AM. Pavilion East**  
**Title: Building and Evaluating Knowledge: Wicked Evaluation Thinking and Practice**  
**Type: Panel**  
**Chair: Michael Patton, Utilization-Focused Evaluation**

**Developing an Evaluation Framework for Knowledge Management: A Case Study**  
Gail Barrington, Barrington Research Group, Inc.

**Evaluation for Knowledge Building**  
Lyn Shulha, Queen’s University at Kingston

**Wicked Environments Call for Wicked Evaluation Thinking and Practice**  
Kate McKegg, Independent Consultant

**Session 274. 1:40 PM to 3:10 PM. Pavilion East**  
**Title: Integrity Without Compromising Findings: An Exploration of Reporting Principles and Standards in Research and Evaluation**  
**Type: Think Tank**  
**Chair: Sue Henderson, WestEd**  
**Presenters: Nancy Hurley, WestEd**  
**Ann Brackett, WestEd**  
**Anthony Petrosino, WestEd**
Session 304. 3:20 PM to 4:50 PM. Galleria II
Title: Closing the Loop from Data to Action: How Evaluation Feeds Program Improvement
Type: Panel
Co-sponsors: Presidential Strand; Health Evaluation TIG
Chair: Thomas Chapel, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Improving the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Through Evaluation
Mary M. Rogers, Centers for Disease Control
Claire Moore, Centers for Disease Control
Norma Harris, Centers for Disease Control

Using Outcome Indicators to Inform Practice and Measure Performance
Sheila Porter, Centers for Disease Control
Gabrielle Starr, Centers for Disease Control
Natasha Jamison, Centers for Disease Control

The Evolution of Evaluation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s Division of Adolescent and School Health
Karen F. Debrot, Centers for Disease Control
Sonal R. Doshi, Centers for Disease Control
Session 338. 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Galleria II
Title: TIG Business Meeting and Invited Panel
TIG Chair: Karen E. Kirkhart, Syracuse University
TIG Program Co-Chair: Susan A. Tucker, Evaluation & Development Associates
TIG Program Co-Chair: Emma Norland, e-Norland Group

Invited Presentation
Title: Taking the Pulse: A Descriptive Study of Evaluation Use
Presenter: Dreolin Fleischer, Claremont Graduate University
Session 515. 1:55 PM to 3:25 PM. Studio Suite
Title: Factors Effecting Evaluation Use in the Public Sector: Reporting Strategies, Performance Measurement Requirements and Data Collection Strategies
Type: Multipaper Session
Chair: Emma Norland, e-Norland Group

Formative Evaluation at its Finest: An Historical Analysis of Evaluation Reports
Lisa Raphael Bogaert, University of Illinois at Chicago
Miriam Mazboudi, University of Illinois at Chicago
Stacy Wenzel, University of Illinois at Chicago
Carol Fendt, University of Illinois at Chicago
Kelci Price, Chicago Public Schools
Bret Feranchak, Chicago Public Schools

Consequences of Performance Measurement Requirements on a Local Head Start Program
Leanne Kallemeyn, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana
Consequences of Building Evaluation Capacity in School: A Six District Case Study of Developing Data Teams in Alaska’s United States Department of Education (USDE) Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant
Susan Tucker, Evaluation and Development Associates
Diane Hirshberg, University of Alaska-Anchorage
Alexandra Hill, University of Alaska-Anchorage
Edward McLain, University of Alaska-Anchorage
Jackie Stillisano, Evaluation and Development Associates

Elected Officials’ Uses of Public Performance Reports: Findings From the Legislator Use of Performance Reports Project in British Columbia, Canada
James McDavid, University of Victoria
Irene Huse, University of Victoria

Session 550. 3:35 PM to 4:20 PM. Studio Suite
Title: Improving Evaluation Reporting Methods to Facilitate Informed Decision-Making
Type: Panel
Chair: Ralph Renger, University of Arizona
Presenters:
Improving Accessibility of Evaluation
Erin Peacock, University of Arizona

Improving Evaluation Report
Emily Kidd, University of Arizona
Session 583. 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Studio Suite
Title: Getting at the Consequences in Evaluation Use and Influence: Knowledge Translation, Concept Mapping, Evaluator as Educator, Validation Process
Type: Multipaper Session
Chair: Susan Tucker, Evaluation and Development Associates

What Makes Evaluation Useful in Government: A Concept Mapping Study
J. Bradley Cousins, University of Ottawa
Swee Goh, University of Ottawa
Tim Aubry, University of Ottawa
Robert Lahey, REL Solutions, Inc.
Steve Montague, Performance Measurement Network, Inc.
Catherine Elliott, University of Ottawa

Designing Evaluation Units to Maximize Uptake and Utilization
Paula Goering, Centre For Addiction and Mental Health

Promoting Evaluation Use by Exploring Evaluation as an Educative Process of Teaching and Learning
Krystin Martens, Western Michigan University

Consequences, Validity and Evaluation Influence
Karen E. Kirkhart, Syracuse University
Session 703. 9:35 AM to 10:20 AM. Grand Ballroom-Ballroom II
Title: Data Use Leads to Data Valuing: An Evaluation Capacity Building Thesis
Type: Expert Lecture
Sponsor: Presidential Strand
Chair: Karen E. Kirkhart, Syracuse University
Presenter: J. Bradley Cousins

Session 753. 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Studio Suite
Title: Planning for Meaningful and Useful Evaluations: Avoiding Glowing Reports and Travel Brochures by Matching the Evaluation Method to the Program Staff
Type: Panel
Chair and Discussant: Curtis Mearns, Albuquerque Public Schools

Evaluation Capacity Building: Promoting Accountability or Public Relations
Carolyn Sullins, Western Michigan University

Travel Brochure Angst: Using Methods to Make Meaningful Results
Curtis Mearns, Albuquerque Public Schools

Tensions in Evaluation: Program Improvement and Marketing Purposes
Tracy Patterson, Center for Creative Leadership
Jennifer Martineau, Center for Creative Leadership
Session 777. 12:10 PM to 1:40 PM. Grand Ballroom-Ballroom II
Title: Process Use: Towards a Fuller Definition of the Consequences of Evaluation
Type: Panel
Co-sponsor: Presidential Strand
Chair: Hallie Preskill, Claremont Graduate University
Discussant: Michael Patton, Utilization-Focused Evaluation

Questioning the Validity of the Term Process Use
Michael Harnar, Claremont Graduate University

Empirical Considerations and Implications of Process Use
Courtney, Amo, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
J. Bradley Cousins, University of Ottawa

Free Range Evaluations: Developing Evaluation Capacity Through Process Use in the Wild World of Organizations
Jean King, University of Minnesota
Session 814. 1:50 PM to 3:20 PM. Grand Ballroom-Ballroom II
Title: Researching Evaluation Use and Influence: Past, Present and Future
Type: Panel
Chair: Frances Lawrenz
Discussants: Marvin Alkin, University of California at Los Angeles
Karen E. Kirkhart, Syracuse University
Melvin Mark, Pennsylvania State University
Michael Patton, Utilization-Focused Evaluation

Researching Evaluation Use and Influence: Twenty Years of Empirical Study
Stacie Toal, University of Minnesota
Lija Greenseid, University of Minnesota
Frances Lawrenz, University of Minnesota
Jean King, University of Minnesota
Kelli Johnson, University of Minnesota

Changes in Tracking and Measuring Evaluation Use and Influence
Jean King, University of Minnesota
Frances Lawrenz, University of Minnesota
Ann Ooms, University of Minnesota
Kelli Johnson, University of Minnesota
Lija Greenseid, University of Minnesota
Stacie Toal, University of Minnesota
Session 858. 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Pavilion East
Title: Utilization-Focused Evaluation: Emergent Issues and New Directions
Type: Think Tank
Chair: Michael Patton, Utilization-Focused Evaluation
Fundamental Issues in Evaluation Use

The Evaluation Use TIG takes the following issues as fundamental to the evaluation profession:

**Theory of Use/Influence.** What is the nature of “use” itself? Theories of influence or use (language varies) focus on the nature of influence/use as a construct, on types of use/misuse, and on causal pathways of influence.

**Use and the Public Good.** What is evaluation’s impact on social justice and other expressions of social betterment? This question merges into ethics and values discussions and the examination of whose interests are addressed in different models of use.

**Evaluator Role in Facilitating Use.** What is the necessary and appropriate role of the evaluator in facilitating use? What is the nature of influence that is appropriate to that role? The answers to these questions differ across evaluation models.

**Validity and Use.** How can the consequences of evaluative understandings and actions offer evidence of an evaluation’s validity? Since validity has long been understood to reside in the use of an instrument or method, the focus on use merges into fundamental discussions of validity in evaluation.

**Metaevaluation.** Is the empirical study of use essentially evaluating the evaluation(s)? Whether use/influence is an intended or unintended outcome of evaluation, studying the scope of influence of a given evaluation and factors facilitating use moves into metaevaluation.
What’s in a Name?