

## AHSRA Proposal

Title: **Data Make a Difference! (Sometimes)**

Abstract: This presentation offers an overview of three studies dealing with pastor family stress in the North American Division. Using these large-scale endeavors as a case study, the research team delineates the study outcomes, the known ways that these data have driven system change, and enumerates barriers that prevent data from having greater impacts in the SDA Church.

### Summary

While hundreds of studies have been conducted among various population groups within the SDA Church, little is known about how these studies have impacted the organizational structures of the Church or its members. In almost any field, research impact is difficult to gauge. In response to this pervasive problem, an entire research domain has emerged as its own field of study (Bornmann, 2014). And yet, to date, no known studies have been published specifically addressing how research data on SDA populations is being used.

To remedy this gap, this presentation offers an overview of three studies dealing with pastor family stress in the North American Division. Using these large-scale endeavors as a case study, the research team delineates the study outcomes, the known ways that these data have driven system change, and enumerates barriers that prevent data from having greater impacts in the SDA Church.

The three pastor family stress studies include qualitative and quantitative data on (1) pastors; (2) pastor spouses; and (3) adult children of pastors in the North American Division. A number of peer-reviewed conference presentations and publications on these studies are available in the public domain (McBride, Sedlacek, Drumm, & Heck, 2016; Drumm, 2016; Drumm, Baltazar, & Sedlacek, 2015; Drumm, Sedlacek, McBride, & Baltazar, 2015; Sedlacek, Drumm, Baltazar, & Oliver, 2015; Drumm, Sedlacek, & McBride, 2015; Baltazar & Drumm, 2015; Heck, Drumm, McBride, & Sedlacek, 2017; Drumm, Cooper, Seifert, McBride, & Sedlacek, 2017).

After briefly summarizing the key findings from these studies, we will review the recommendations from the three studies and how they have or have not been implemented. In addition, the presenters will note specific ways in which the data has influenced organizational policy or operating procedures. We will conclude with both specific and broad-scale observations about the barriers that prevent the data from having more significant impacts across systems.

This presentation adds to the body of knowledge currently available about how research data on SDA populations is used and reveals some of the barriers to organizational change. In addition, the presentation concludes with practical suggestions researchers can use to help decrease the barriers to data usage.

## References

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