

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Two Phases of a Continuum
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(aka "Red")

TRANSLATION

Powerful concept that is poorly understood and lightly addressed—at enormous social cost.



“Translate the advances in the field of diabetes research with least delay into improved care for the diabetic (sic) in the setting of model care demonstration within the centers (Phase One Translation) and through outreach programs in the regional community (Phase Two Translation).”

Phase One Translation, usually dubbed “bench-to-bedside,” applies basic scientific discoveries to human health care under controlled conditions, i.e., clinical research.

Phase Two Translation promotes the adoption of the fruits of promising clinical research by the community-based health care system under uncontrolled and (often) uncontrollable conditions.

WHAT A REASONABLE OBSERVER ASSUMES...

... that promising new biomedical and behavioral science would be quickly and universally offered to any patient who might benefit from it.

... that the power of the new science to improve the human condition should be sufficient to propel widespread adoption of the new science by our health care system and the patients it serves.

Unfortunately, this is rarely the case.

In the real world, *Phase Two Translation* stumbles unguided towards a very uneven, extraordinarily incomplete, and socially disappointing state of affairs.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION—
the traditional approach to
Phase Two Translation

- Medical literature
- Clinical scientific conferences
- CME industry
- Internet
- Educational programs
- And many other formats

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION...

- Useful and essential first step in *Phase Two Translation* — BUT...
- Produces only a vague and evanescent awareness that new science exists
- does not address the conditions and circumstances of the numerous target audiences involved.

AWARENESS ≠ ADOPTION

WHOSE JOB IS IT?

Phase One Translation has a thousand mothers and fathers

Phase Two Translation is an orphan

This conference proposes to generate interest in becoming adoptive parents —
and provide an introduction to the skills required to do so.

A Final Quibble About Words...

Translation—*a noun*, encompasses the myriad of steps necessary to ensure that the full social value of new basic biomedical and behavioral science is realized through improvement in the nation's health.

Translate—*a verb*, performing the acts of translation.

Translational—*an adjective*, qualifying a noun (such as research, intervention, analysis, discussion, etc.) as dealing with translation.

**This is a diabetes
translational research
conference**
