Translational Research:
Tracking the (not so straight) Path of Translational Research

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Program Analysis Branch
NIEHS Program Analysis Branch

- Short and long term program evaluation & portfolio analysis
- Information technology to support analysis and strategic planning
- Communicate research impact

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Evaluator

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Elizabeth Ruben
IT Liaison, Analyst
Communicating research results and impact

- Congressional Justification, Inquiries, Testimony
- Presentations by Dr. Birnbaum and Senior NIEHS Staff (SOT, Council, Town Hall Meetings, Stakeholders)
- Reporters/Requests from the Communications Office
- Program evaluations → Strategic Planning for Funding Announcement Opportunities
Building Blocks to Measuring Impact

- All publications should cite your grant number
- Best format: R01 ES 123456
- Tell us about it in your progress reports
- PEPH Metrics Manual can help you measure success
  www.niehs.nih.gov/pephmetrics

Special Data Collection

Progress Reports

Publications
SP Goal Outputs

- 25 Resources/tools
- 126 Webinars, workshops, special sessions, and symposia
- 54 Collaborations
- 52 FOAs to promote research in Strategic Plan goal areas
- 63 Highlighted publications, with 30 from NIEHS-supported workshops
- 35 Podcasts
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences
Translational Science Spectrum
Overview of Framework...
Fundamental Questions

Asking:
- What is it?
- What is it doing?
- How does it do that and what else is going on?
Example of Movement Around the Ring

1. In vivo (Mouse)
   - Observation (What is happening?)
   - Understanding (How does it work?)

2. Population (Human)
   - Translation

Harvard University Core Center
Application and Synthesis

- Other Controlled Testing
- Research Synthesis
- Tool Testing
- Intervention Pilot Testing
- Replication
- Method Testing

Testing in a structured and predictable setting to gain deeper understanding of a process or a particular effect.
Implementation and Adjustment

Risk Assessment

Intervention Validation

Tool Validation/ Optimal Use Testing

Clinical Testing

Biomarker Screen, Assay Validation

Effectiveness/ Value Analysis

testing in real world settings and adjusting for differences in settings and populations
Moving established and validated ideas into common practice to affect change among a broader population.
Assess the impact of a practice, guideline, or policy.
Benefits of the Framework

• Clearly communicate a concept of translational research
• Provide a storytelling tool or structure for grantees
• Provide a path for researchers to see where research might go
• Provide a strategy for understanding, assessing and categorizing translational research
• Enable us to track movement of research through translational spectrum over long periods of time
• Ability to use framework as an evaluation tool
• Enable program staff to actively manage translational bridges
Team Science & Interdisciplinary Work
Not all research will be translational!

NIEHS Mission:
Discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives.