

During our Retreat the discussion was about what is a good definition of Translational Research. The discussion was that overall translational research is new and there are various definitions. Translational research is not a traditional unilateral or unidirectional research. It can happen in any direction and is not necessarily linear. It entails complexity with the goal to impact human health.

Definition 1:

Translational research is a research approach with the overarching goal to gain novel insights that result in meaningful, clinically applicable results that directly benefit human health. Adapted from <http://aging.uams.edu/research/the-center-for-translational-research-in-aging-and-longevity>.

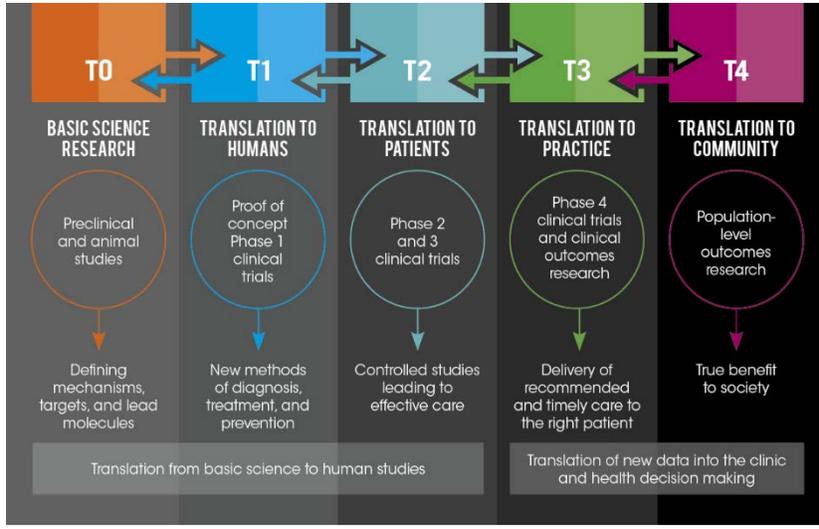


Figure 1: From: <http://aging.uams.edu/research/the-center-for-translational-research-in-aging-and-longevity/>

Translational research includes various transitions that represent opportunities but also challenges. This approach emphasizes removing barriers to multidisciplinary collaboration among laboratory and clinical researchers. It also incorporates the desires of the general public, with communities being engaged to determine their needs for health innovation. The goal is to move basic science discoveries more quickly and efficiently into practice. This concept is often summarized by the phrases “bench-to-bedside” and “bedside-to-community”

research. Translational research also encompasses efforts to identify and support the adoption of best medical and health practices (Figure 1). Adapted from <http://aging.uams.edu/research/the-center-for-translational-research-in-aging-and-longevity>.

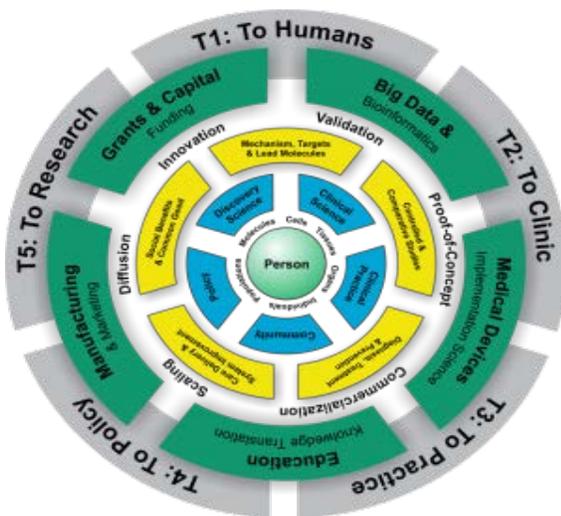


Figure 2: <https://trp.utoronto.ca/what-is-translation/>

Based on the Institute of Medical Science Translational Research Program at the University of Toronto, Translational Research is defined as “The process of turning observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public — from diagnostics and therapeutics to medical procedures and behavioral changes.” *Definition 2*

Translational Research is a reflective and systematic approach to research translation that includes developing methods of inquiry, best-practices and frameworks for optimizing the successful design, development, implementation, testing, and dissemination of innovation in healthcare. This complex approach is depicted in Figure 2.

In summary, TR is a non-linear, not unidirectional, rather a dynamic and complex process with the goal to improve human health. These preliminary definitions will be used as a framework for the TRC and will be subject to modifications to tailor it for the Department of Surgery.

Marc Jeschke
Chair Translational Research Committee