

AAAS joins the Translational Medicine family.

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ABSTRACT

Science Translational Medicine launched, according to an announcement from the AAAS. We are quite happy that translational medicine has attained the level of acknowledgment by one of the most prominent scientific organizations in the world. This is further and crucial recognition for this field. We think that Science Translational Medicine will offer yet another beneficial platform for the quick and extensive distribution of significant articles in the field and aid in improving the efficacy of overall translational medicine.

We first published the Journal of Translational Medicine with Biomed Central as an open-access journal over six years ago [1]. We initially had to deal with the unavoidable skepticism and numerous inquiries, including some from Science reporters, challenging the relevance of translational medicine in the current biomedical landscape and the necessity of starting a new journal devoted to it.

EDITORIAL

There have been suggestions that translational medicine, also known as translational research or translational science, is a passing fad. This is because the term was coined to deflect attention away from clinical research and/or the basic sciences, and more importantly, it has come to stand in for lower-quality scientific studies that attempted to justify the apparent lack of scientific rigor with inherent drawbacks and limitations that were frequently overlooked, such as in studies involving small laboratory animals.

However, we contended that while closing the gap between research and clinical application was not inherently a novel idea—after all, it is the long-term objective of the majority of scientists and clinicians—the importance of designating it as a separate field primarily derived from improving

the efficaciousness of techniques to effectively transfer knowledge.

edge between the bedside and the bench as well as, crucially, between the bedside and the bench [2-4]. In instance, we suggested that “the traditional goals of biomedical research function as a substrate for the catalytic activity of translational research that, like an enzyme, is aimed at enhancing the efficiency rather than modifying the process” [3].

Additionally, we contended that JTM would specifically enhance translational medicine by doing the following in response to editors and publishers of already-established journals who questioned the need for yet another one:

1) Open access - Information is shared quickly, widely, and without barriers to establish an interactive platform for researchers, physicians, patients, funding agencies, and regulatory bodies, all made possible by BioMed Central's collaboration and mission [5].

2) A dedicated Editorial Board made up only of doctors and translational scientists with experience in both the lab and the clinic. We believed that the only people who could authoritatively and constructively distinguish between excellent and bad clinical science were those who had a combination of expertise. Clinical studies have enormous importance because they shed light on the true nature of disease, even though they are frequently constrained by practical, economical, and ethical considerations [1]. These discoveries are frequently not obtained through animal model experimentation or in-vitro analysis alone. Knowing that many board members would encounter some degree of skepticism by their peers, the members were chosen for the board based on their demonstrated excitement and dedication to the profession, in addition to their particular accomplishments.

3) A similar enthusiasm for both descriptive and mechanical research. We believe that the understanding of human illness is restricted and that an inductive bottom-up approach method (i.e., diagnosing human illnesses in people) and patient samples) is an initial measure.

It is just as valuable as sophisticated mechanical research that may not have much bearing on human illness [6].

The success of the Journal of Translational Medicine in part due to the importance of this newly developed field has gained widespread acceptance. We argue that the identification of new products with potential therapeutic uses will depend more and more on translational medicine.

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Translational tactics could address the requirement to explore new treatments that meet the enormous expenses associated with clinical research, the dearth of trustworthy preclinical clinical models that could aid in product prioritization for clinical evaluation, the deficiency of indicators that can predict could aid in the choice of patients and the absence of surrogates biomarkers that might be useful in evaluating the effectiveness of products early in the development process.

The recent news by the American Association for the Advancement of Science that it is starting Science Translational Medicine is greatly appreciated by all of us who have been committed to this essential field since the beginning [7]. We are quite happy that one of the most prestigious scientific associations in the world has recognized translational medicine. However, Science Translational Medicine will genuinely be a closed access publication, which poses a serious challenge to the spirit of discipline-breaking that is essential to translational research advancement. We underline the advantages of openness, which JTM provides and which are exemplified, among other things, by the NIH Open Access policy, which is now both mandatory and untime-limited. However, we think that the field of science translational medicine will offer a further beneficial platform for the quick and widespread distribution of significant articles in the area and help to raise the general efficacy of translational medicine.

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