

Redefining The Research-Practice Continuum: The Vision of Advances in Medical Research and Practice

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Discovery and knowledge in the medical field are advancing at an unparalleled rate. However, the ability to translate that knowledge into relevant and meaningful enhancements in the care of patients has not been as rapid. Evidence might be underutilized, implementation might be inconsistent, and innovations that have potential for effect may not see beyond the lab. A systematic review of reviews showed significant evidence that many barriers still stand in the way of evidence-based research moving into regular clinical practice.^[1] This one is one of the biggest dilemmas in the modern day's medicine. The practice of this traditional approach of research→ publication→ practice is thus no longer enough. There is a need for a more dynamic concept, the research–practice continuum, in which research feeds into practice, practice feeds into research, and patient outcomes continually strengthen the evidence base.

From Research Translation to Research Integration

Translation should not be considered the final stage of research. All implementation and evaluation of the findings in a real-world context should be embedded in the research from the beginning. It is now widely recognized that clinical trials should be designed for implementation, health-system setting, equity and population impact to inform and facilitate implementation.^[2] It necessitates changes in thinking about posing research questions. Rather than the question of whether there is a proven efficacy of interventions, the question must be pushed further and further;

How effective or ineffective will it be in routine practice and for who, under what conditions, at what price, and with what consequences?

These questions help to fuse the concepts of efficacy, effectiveness, implementation and sustainability into a shared scientific vocabulary.

Clinical Practice Should Shape Research

There is also a need for the transfer of knowledge in the opposite direction. The foothold of clinical practice is riddled with questions that remain unanswered, observations that have not been made, limitations to treatment, workflow challenges, and patient priorities. Hence, research could be more relevant and responsive through a practice-driven research agenda. Lately, implementation science research has made an argument for closer collaboration between researchers and practitioners to capture questions that are truly from practice.^[3] Thus, the research – practice continuum should be two-way, and not hierarchical.

Research → Evidence → Practice → Experience → New Questions → Research



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This circular model may be especially relevant to learning health systems, where gathering clinical data, communicating results, generating evidence, and using it to guide ongoing change are linked in a continuous loop, all for the seeking of improved outcomes.^[4]

Patients as Partners in Knowledge Generation

The future of medical research requires a transition from Research on patients to Research with patients.

Patients and communities can help in prioritizing; identifying results that are important to them; interpreting results; and determining acceptability and feasibility of interventions. A recent scoping review of patient collaboration in health research identified that patient involvement can positively influence on relevance of research, study design, co-production and research impact.^[5]

Whether patient engagement is being done ethically and participatively is, however, not to be seen as an obligation. It can be a means of enhancing the relevance and utility of science.

From Novelty to Real-World Value

Scientific novelty remains important, but novelty alone should not define research excellence.

It may be a case that a highly cited paper has not a great impact on clinical practice versus a carefully planned implementation study could make a significant difference in improving the practice within the health system. Indices of research impact should be expanded beyond publications and citations to include changes in behavior (clinical practice), outcomes of care (for patients), achievement of the health systems, policy, equity and quality of health systems care.^[6]

This is especially relevant in the age of swift technological advancement. The case of artificial intelligence is a perfect illustration; while numerous clinical artificial intelligence models have been developed, putting them into practice is another story altogether. A successful rollout of an AI model should include not only its computational accuracy, but also a few aspects that refer to how the system is embedded into health care workflow, how it is accepted by the

stakeholders, how it will be monitored and how safe it is in use.^[7,8]

A clinically accurate innovation that cannot be implemented is not yet a clinically transformative innovation.

Trustworthy Evidence as the Foundation

Building up a more robust scientific trust is also essential for an improved research–practice continuum. Better foundations of scientific trust are also a key to better research–practice continuum.

Typos must be reported, methods must be reproducible, appropriate registration required, data and code sharing should be done if possible, and funding and conflicts of interest must be clear to enable analysis and extension of evidence. Review of large-scale measurements of biomedical publications indicates that transparency is not even across these areas.^[9]

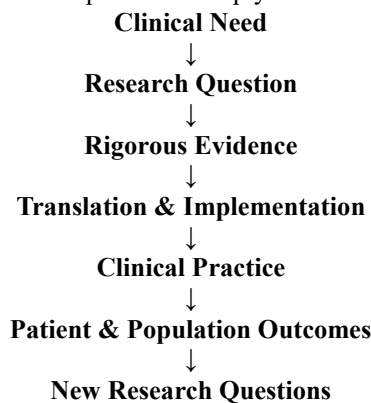
This is an important responsibility when publishing medically. Journals should promote and encourage methodological rigor, together with the ability to reproduce the findings: transparency and responsible interpretation and clinically meaningful reporting.

The Vision of Advances in Medical Research and Practice

The Advances in Medical Research and Practice has been given the chance to overcome the role of merely a channel to publish completed research. Can be used to link discovery with evidence, clinical practice and health impact.

The journal should encourage research that is scientific, novel, socially significant, patient-focused, innovative and technologically advanced, as well as rigorous yet relevant.

Its vision can be represented simply:



This is not a linear pathway. It is a **continuous learning cycle**.

From Publication to Impact

The goals of medical publishing in the future should, therefore, be to use knowledge not only to measure medical knowledge, but to assess the efficacy of knowledge transfer to better health.

Advent of Medical Research and Practice has the chance to adopt larger perspective towards excellence in medical research that includes linkage of rigor, relevance, discovery and implementation with evidence and impact. The ultimate destination of medical research should not be the journal article.

It should be better health. And the most valuable research is that which does not merely close the gap between knowledge and practice, but transforms that gap into a continuous pathway of learning, improvement, and discovery.

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