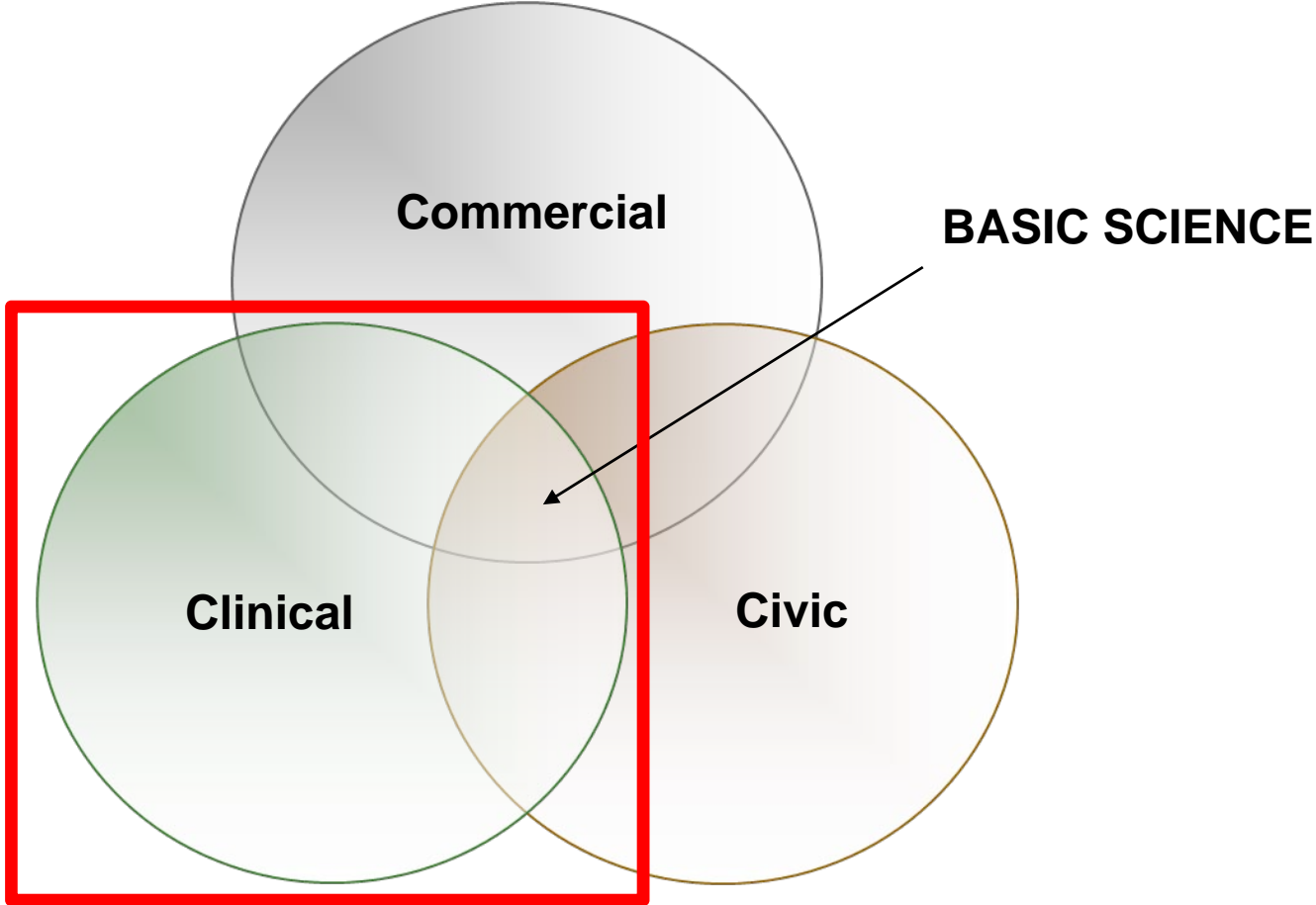


Translating biomedical research into clinical practice: some institutional constraints

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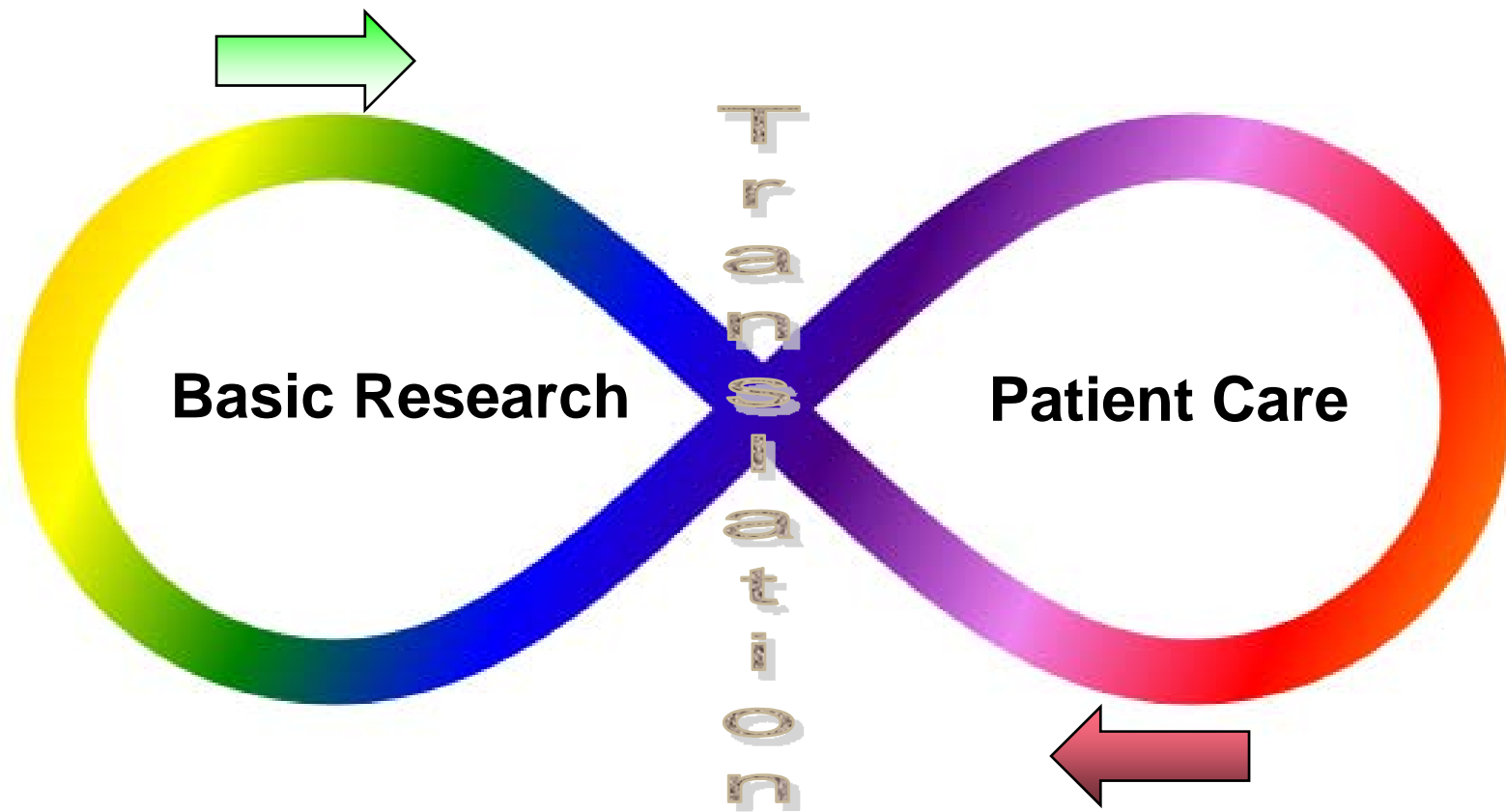
Varieties of translational science



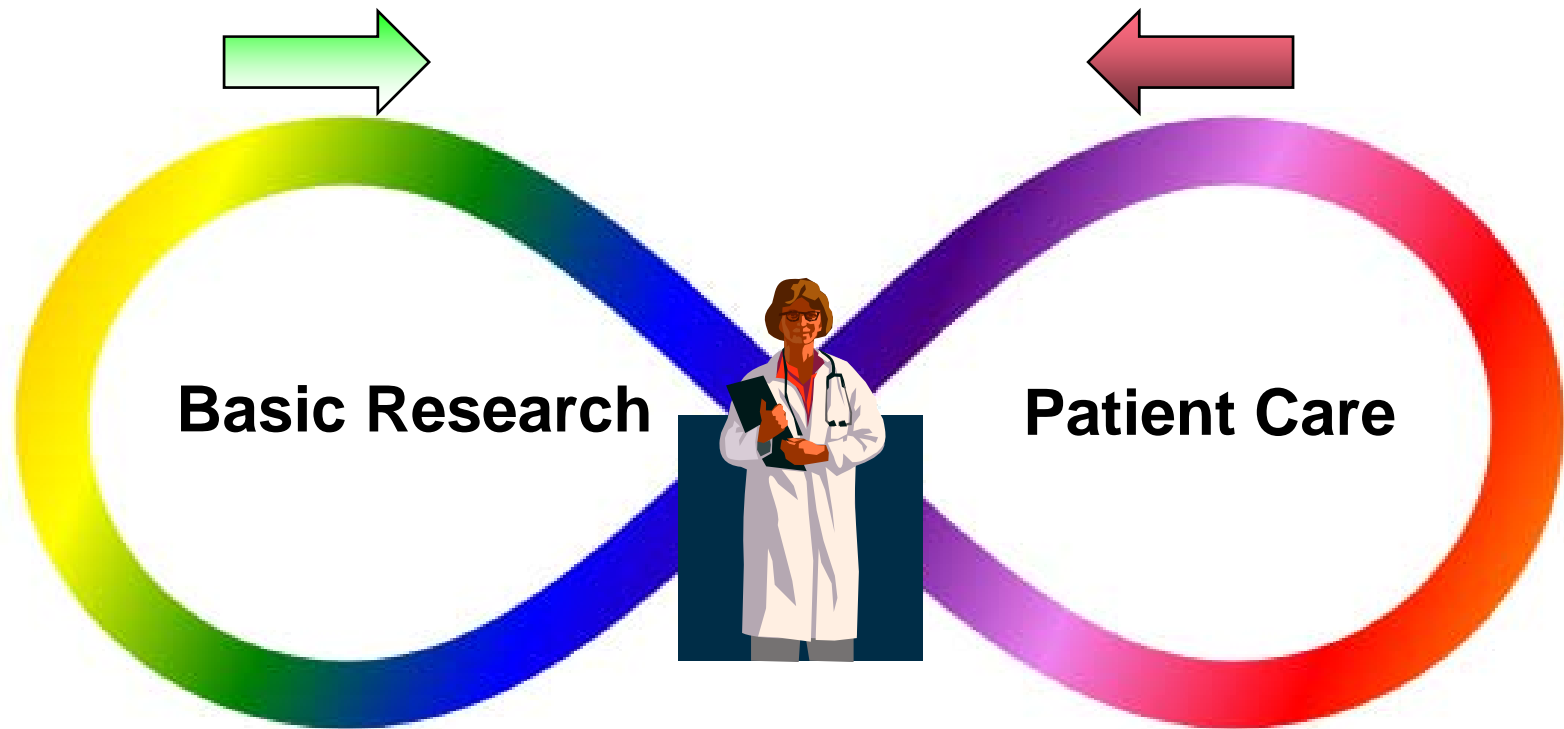
Research questions

1. What is clinical translation?
2. How are clinician-scientists involved in clinical translation?
3. What barriers do clinician-scientists face in pursuing a career in clinical translation

What is clinical translation?



Where is the clinician-scientist?



“I think it’s really important to have a person with a foot in both worlds...So [the clinician-scientist] understands how things run in the hospital and how things run here [in the lab].”

Methods

- 2 clinician scientist research labs and related research network of scientists and clinicians
- Data collection summer 2006-spring 2009
- 16 surveys
- 17 interviews with 11 people
- Observational work

The research labs

- MD or MD/PhDs as PIs
- Other lab members students, post docs, and technologists
- Labs focused on immunological problems
- Researchers in labs NOT pursuing clinical training
- Majority expertise in microbiology and immunology

Becoming a clinician scientist is not an appealing career path

“...the hard thing is to convince somebody to take this [being a clinician scientist] on as a career...A lot of people just aren't prepared to take on.”

Some of the barriers faced by clinician scientist



Barriers in training

“You’re punished in that the training is much longer, and you have decreased earnings through the training time.”

Barriers in funding

“For the science part, you have to submit grants and papers that will be fundable at the national and international level, and be published in internationally recognized journals. And the journals or granting agencies don’t care much [about the clinical part].”

Barriers in forming networks

“There are a lot of people who don’t believe that somebody can do both clinical work and basic research.”

Is the MD/PhD the key to success?

“I’m still really interested in interface between clinical and basic research. I think it would be hard for me to go back to basic research.”

Possible ways forward

- Encourage healthcare or basic science students to become involved in clinical translational science
- Explicitly reward people who bridge basic research and the clinic
- Create networks that bring together scientists and clinicians
- Co-locate clinical work and basic research

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