How Does Translational Research on Aging Work?

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#### Senior Centers

- Case Management Agencies
- Home Care
- Home Delivered Meals
- Adult Day Care



	Disagree	Agree
There is not enough time to read research.	27%	73%
I would like to have more time available to read research.	25%	75%
More money should be spent on direct services and less money should be spent on research.	9%	91%

## **Translational Research**

What is it?



## **Definitional Disarray**

Translational Research: Core Definition

The process of applying basic (laboratory/epidemiological/ behavioral) research findings to the development of innovative clinical applications/ interventions.

## Example

"Translational research represents the application of advances in basic science knowledge to practice." Traditional Translational Research Process

T0, awaiting a bright idea

- T1, discovery
- S, synthesis with medical knowledge
- T2, application to a medical problem

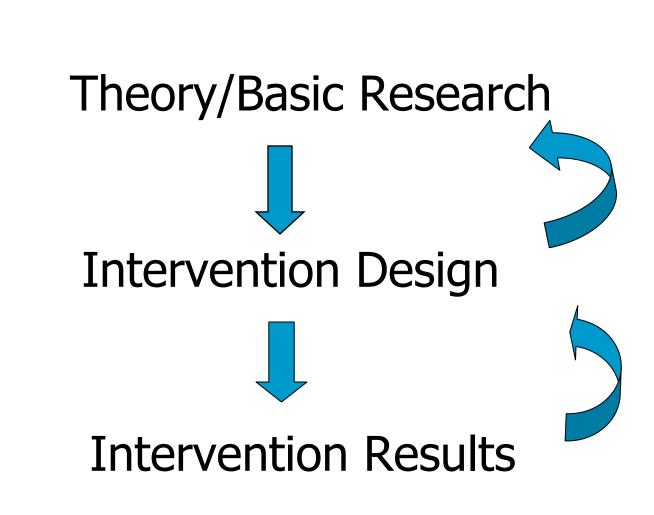
M, movement into the clinic

#### **Expanded Definition**

The process of applying basic research findings to the development of innovative clinical applications/ interventions and applying insights from clinical applications/interventions to basic research

## Example

"Translational research ... is the clinical application of knowledge gained through basic research ... Experiences from the practice setting then influence what occurs in the laboratory."





### Components of a Translational Research Project

- 1. Address a significant social problem
- 2. Clearly articulated theoretical basis
- 3. Grounded in basic research
- 4. Carefully constructed intervention
- 5. Randomized, controlled design
- 6. Clear dissemination plan

# Why Is Translational Research a Good Thing?

- Research base for interventions
- Generates new ways of thinking about solutions to human problems
- Need for rigorous testing of interventions

Bridging the Two Cultures of Research and Practice

- Differences in Orientation
- Differences in Training
- Differences in the Nature of Evidence
- Differences in Time Horizon