Translational Stroke Research: a personal perspective

Marc Fisher

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Abstract

Translational stroke research traditionally encompasses the passage of basic science advances into clinical medicine. It is a key component in the process of developing novel therapeutics and diagnostic capabilities. Traditionally translational research has occurred as research teams focus on important basic science discoveries that may have clinical utility and evaluate these advances in animal models. However, other translational research pathways have evolved and can be characterized as reverse translation where clinical advance stimulate basic science researchers to study mechanisms of disease pathophysiology or drug activity. Lateral translation occurs when basic researchers attempt to enhance or modify the activity of a drug to improve its safety and/or efficacy profile. An example would be the development of improved thrombolytic drugs that has better clot-ysis activity than tPA and is safer. Translational stroke research requires a large team with many individuals from multiple diverse backgrounds who can work together in a productive environment.

1Beth Israel Deaconess Medical, Center, Boston, USA

Email address: mfisher5@bidmc.harvard.edu

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