

The Real Issue: A Dysfunctional Research Ecosystem

Pete Chiarelli
Liberal Arts Major
One Mind

Why Discuss the Research Ecosystem?

- Our willingness to both understand and work to change the research ecosystem is what differentiates OM from other advocacy groups
- We have talked about many of these inefficiencies before; however, we all need to agree that we support for OM's Open Science Principles
- The “inefficient” can be made efficient if we can demonstrate that stressing the following principles can yield advancements that can quickly benefit the patient:
 - ✓ Unrelenting patient focus
 - ✓ Focus on data sharing and data quality
 - ✓ Emphasis on big science de-risked by requiring deliverables for continued funding
 - ✓ Deemphasize the primacy of peer reviewed journal articles while making successful coordination with the FDA the primary measure of professional accomplishment
 - ✓ Emphasize team science and multi-institutional collaboration
- And finally, we must understand that the approval of better diagnostics, treatments and cures does not solve the problem – acceptance by medical professionals can take over a decade(s) unless new strategies for dissemination are found.

The Rational Clinical Research Ecosystem

The Way Most People/Donors Believe It Works

Bench/Basic Science

Starts With A Hypothesis

“Translational Science”

Research Findings to Patient Benefits

“Bedside”

Better Diagnostics, Treatments & Cures

 **Immediate Adoption**

Hypothesis: New applications of MRI can diagnose “mild” and “moderate” TBI (non CT positive) and identify those who will suffer long lasting symptoms

- Patient/Translation focused
- Collaboration required
- Research fully funded to prove or disprove hypothesis
 - ✓ Required “N” (large enough)
 - ✓ Data curation
 - ✓ Data Storage
 - ✓ Data analysis
 - ✓ All agreed requirements
- CDISC common data standards used
- Data shared
- Deliverables identified and monitored
- IP respected but not a barrier to translation
- All results reported and tracked

- Patient/Bedside focused
- Large enough numbers (“N”) achieved
- Engagement with the FDA encouraged and rewarded
- Clinical trials de-risked
- Better diagnostics, treatments and cures are the priority
- Peer reviewed journal articles not the measure of success
- Additional funds provided for meeting deliverables
- Team science rewarded
- IP shared
- All results reported and tracked

- Patient focused
- FDA approval of better diagnostic, drug, device, treatment
- CPT code issued for insurance reimbursement
- Immediate dissemination of findings so all patients are aware and benefit
- Researchers rewarded for helping patients
- Team science rewarded
- All data shared
- All results reported and tracked

Today's Clinical Research Ecosystem

A Model Of Inefficiency

Bench/Basic Science
Starts With A Hypothesis

“Translational Science”
Research Findings to Patient Benefits

“Bedside”
Better Diagnostics, Treatments & Cures

→ **17 years to adoption**

Hypothesis: New applications of MRI can diagnose “mild” and “moderate” TBI (non CT positive) and identify those who will suffer long lasting symptoms

- **Researcher/Patient** focused
 - **Policies discourage** collaboration
 - Research **partially** funded to prove or disprove hypothesis
 - ✓ **Small “N” the norm** (large enough)
 - ✓ Data curation **not funded**
 - ✓ Data Storage **not funded**
 - ✓ Data analysis **not fully funded**
 - ✓ **Other** requirements **not funded**
 - CDISC common data standards **not funded or required**
 - Data sharing **discouraged**
 - Deliverables **not identified or required**
 - IP **is** a barrier to translation
 - **Only positive** results reported and tracked
- **Researcher/Patient** focused
 - Large enough numbers (“N”) **not** achieved **without another grant**
 - Engagement with the FDA **discouraged** and **not** rewarded
 - Clinical trials **too** risky
 - Better diagnostics, treatments and cures are **not** the priority
 - Peer reviewed journal articles **are** the measure of success
 - Additional funds provided **based on the number of peer reviewed journal articles**
 - Team science **discouraged**
 - IP **is** a barrier to “bedside”
 - **Only positive** results reported and tracked
- **Profit/Patient** focused
 - FDA approval of better diagnostic, drug, device, treatment **difficult because data standards not enforced**
 - CPT code for insurance reimbursement **uncertain because FDA approval deferred or denied**
 - **It takes 17 years** for the dissemination of findings so all patients are aware and benefit
 - Researchers are rewarded for the **publication of journal articles**
 - Team science **discouraged**
 - Data **is not** shared
 - **Only positive** results reported and tracked