

Letter From the JCTS Editor

JCTS—The Home for Translational Science

The translational ecosystem is complex and multidimensional. Indeed, the very nomenclature related to translation can be a source of confusion. NCATS Director Dr. Chris Austin has helped to “translate” the essential principles of our field, with three key definitions:



- **Translation** is the process of turning observations in the laboratory, clinic, and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public
- **Translational research** is the endeavor to traverse a particular step of the translation process for a particular target or disease
- **Translational science** is the field of investigation that seeks to understand the scientific and operational principles underlying each step of the translational process

In addition to publishing the best in translational research, the Journal of Clinical and Translational Science (JCTS) aims to be a world-class forum for translational science. We recognize that investigators often choose to publish their translational research in specialty- or disease-specific journals. As we evolve, JCTS hopes to be an attractive choice for such research studies. However, where we currently add unique value is in being a home for translational science. We have already published work related to foundational questions in translational science, such as evolving definitions related to translation (see [Fort et al, 2017](#)), bibliometric approaches to quantifying the impact of translation (see [Schneider et al, 2017](#), and [Smith et al, 2017](#)), enhancing IRB performance (see [Fontanesi et al, 2018](#)), developing research IT models for academic health centers (see [Knosp et al, 2019](#)), and more. JCTS is committed to being the pre-eminent platform for disseminating the best in *translational science*, in order to inform the wider community about best practices in *translational research*, such that we can collectively accelerate successful *translation* to the benefit of the world.

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JCTS's mission is to provide a forum for the rapid communication of topics of interest and relevance to the large and diverse community of clinical and translational scientists with the goal of improving the efficiency with which health needs inform research and new diagnostics, therapies, and preventive measures reach the public. The Association for Clinical and Translational Science has partnered with the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA) and the Clinical Research Forum (CRF) to support the growth and development of JCTS.

Submit your article today to be featured in future issues of JCTS! Please also visit the [JCTS website](#) for information on our themed issues related to Dissemination and Implementation as well as Rural Health.

News From the Hill

News From the Hill: April 19, 2019

The Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Francis Collins, recently appeared before the Senate's Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Subcommittee to testify on the administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget request. Consistent with the previous House hearing on this topic, the budget request itself was not discussed, and the importance of NIH and emerging scientific opportunities were covered instead.



The Chairman of the Subcommittee, Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), and the Subcommittee's Ranking Member, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), both made it clear that the NIH cuts proposed by the administration would not be considered and that the Subcommittee would be working to increase NIH funding. The Chairman of the full Committee, Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), echoed this position. However, unlike the House hearing, more attention was given to just how difficult the process to significantly increase NIH funding during the FY 2020 appropriations cycle would be.

See the full newsletter on the [ACTS Advocacy page](#).

Translational Science Today



UCI to establish skin biology, diseases resource center...

Irvine, Calif., April 22, 2019 - With nearly \$4 million in funding from the National Institute of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases, the University of California, Irvine will establish the UCI Skin Biology Resource-based Center.

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