

DIA 2013 49th Annual Meeting "Advancing Therapeutic Innovation and Regulatory Science" June 23 – 27, 2013 Boston Convention and Exhibition Center Boston, MA

Session 123 - How Can Translational Medicine Fill The Gaps in Life Sciences Industries?

One of the more daunting challenges for many players in the life science industry is translational medicine. Yet the close relationship between laboratory research and clinical situations is critical for the advancement of medicine and human health. In, How Can Translational Medicine Fill The Gaps in Life Sciences Industries? (Session 123), chairperson Aamir Shahzad, MD began the discussion by asking, "what is translational medicine?" Tasked with answering this question were a diverse group of PhD and MD professionals befitting a discussion of bench to bedside translation. Indeed, laboratory to clinical translation is a key part of translational medicine, yet the panelists agreed it only represents part of the story. Elaborating on this point Anastasia M. Christianson, PhD suggested that translational medicine is "circular" and that in addition to bench to bedside, we must also "understand the clinical population, then translate that to preclinical situations."

Another panelist, Nicholas John Sarlis, MD, PhD, brought a unique perspective to the discussion and claimed that how the community uses drug and devices also represents a key role for translational medicine. He suggested that integration of information from "public health professionals, clinical epidemiologists and behavioral scientists" is key to designing therapies which best address the needs of real world patients. The session ended with an overview of the steps governments and industries across the globe are taking to enhance translational medicine and painted a rosy picture of the beneficial role translational medicine has to play in the future of the life sciences.

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