

Translating for Impact: a free online toolkit for demonstrating the larger impact of your work



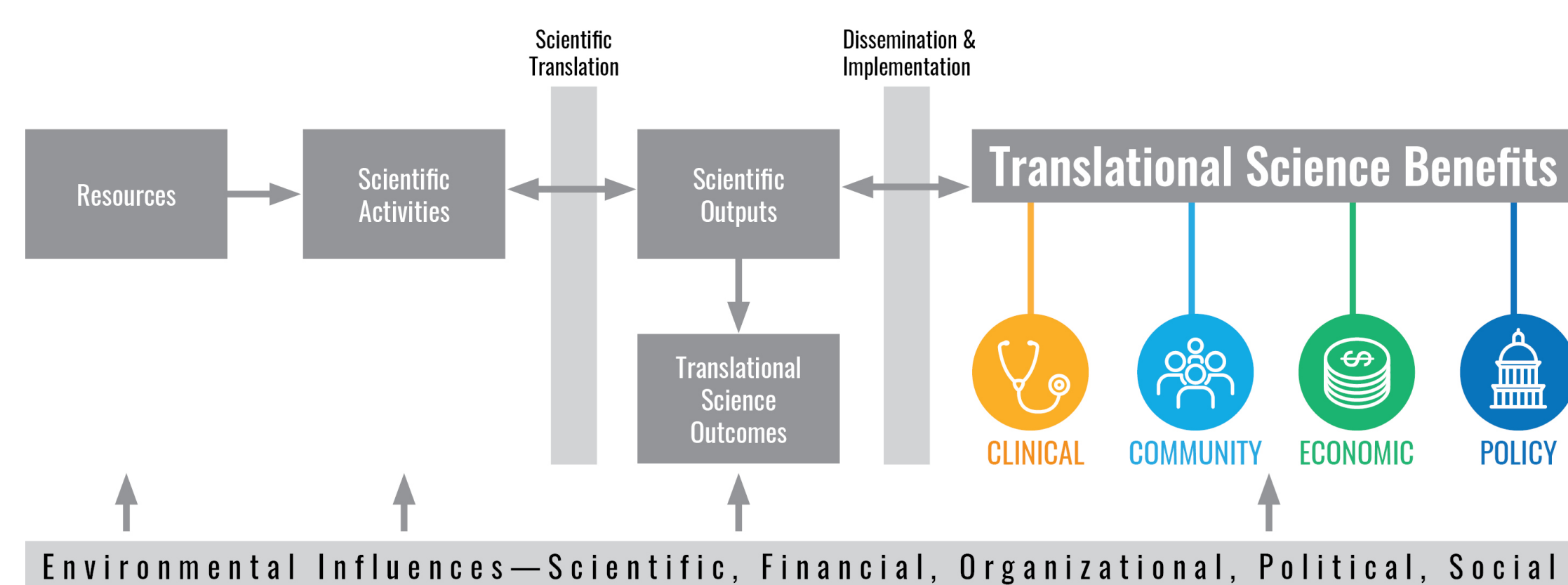
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MEASURING THE BENEFITS OF TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Historically, researchers have focused on linking research to scientific outputs like publications and grants. But decision makers, community members, funders, and institutional leaders care about the larger impact of research (e.g., number of lives saved and improved cost-effectiveness).

The Translational Science Benefits Model

Developed in 2017, the **Translational Science Benefits Model (TSBM)** is a framework designed to help public health and clinical scientists demonstrate the impact of their work in the real world.¹



TSBM Conceptual Model

The model identifies 30 tangible benefits that demonstrate research impact across four domains:

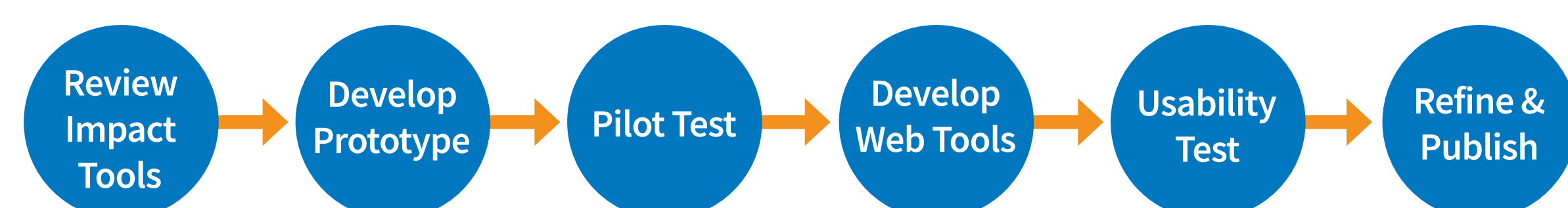


TOOLKIT DEVELOPMENT

To help researchers apply the TSBM to their work, we developed a complementary toolkit to integrate impact throughout the research process. The toolkit is designed to help both individual translational scientists and CTSA hubs evaluate and demonstrate the impact of their projects.

We developed the toolkit in six phases. First, we reviewed existing tools for measuring research impact. We then created prototypes of nine tools and published on the TSBM website. Next, we pilot tested the tools with a set of researchers. Based on feedback and testing, we developed and launched web-based versions of the tools. We are currently conducting usability testing with researchers, which we will use to evaluate the ease-of-use and quality of the tools, identify areas for improvement, and refine the tools.

Six steps for developing the Translating for Impact Toolkit

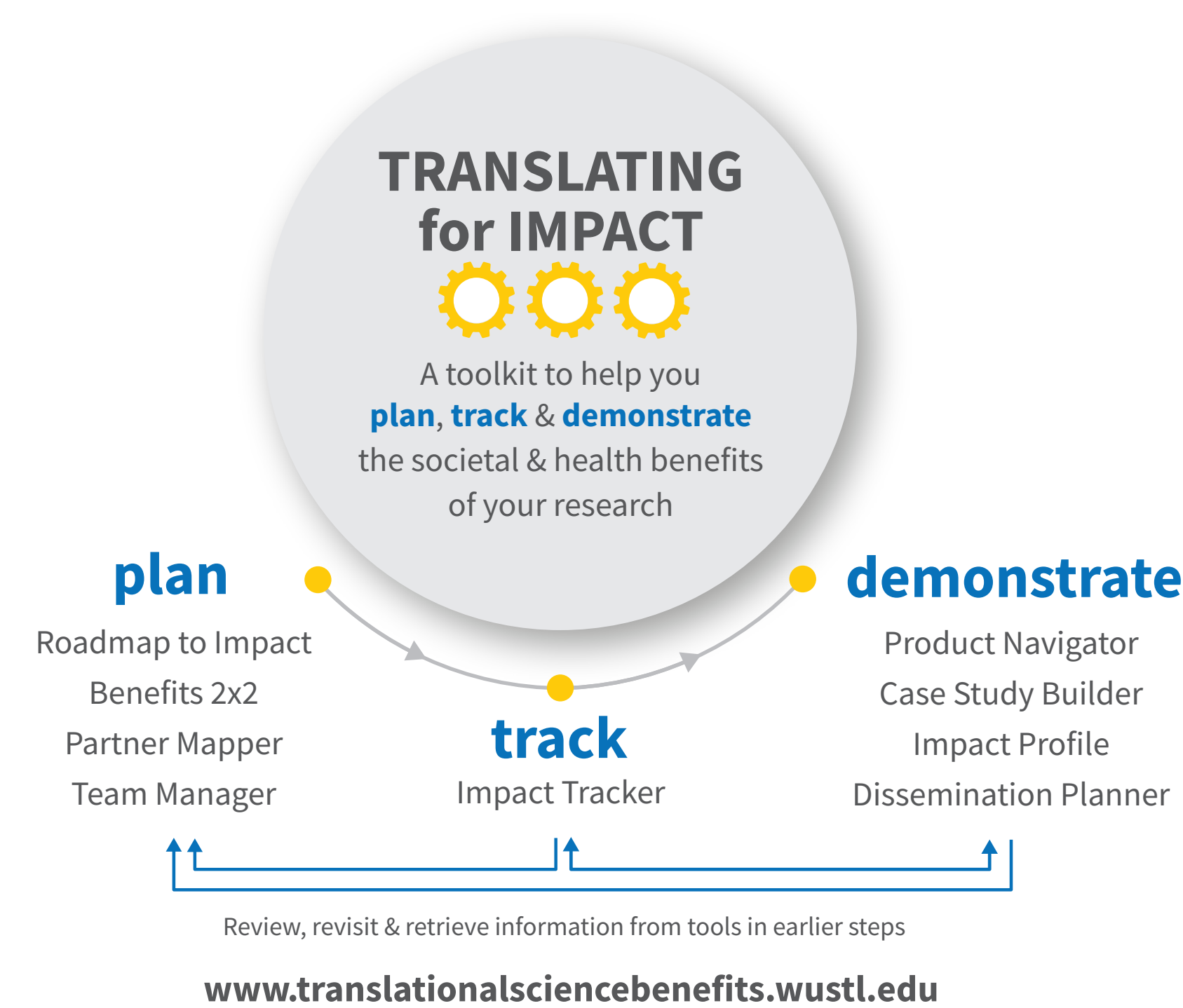


¹ Luke DA, Sari CC, Suiter AM, et al. The Translational Science Benefits Model: a new framework for assessing the health and societal benefits of clinical and translational sciences. *Clin Transl Sci*. 2018;11(1):77-84. doi:10.1111/cts.12495

THE TRANSLATING FOR IMPACT TOOLKIT

Using the new **Translating for Impact Toolkit** of nine free web-based tools, researchers can create free, secure accounts to plan, track, and demonstrate the impact of their work.

The Toolkit is designed to be completed by a group of people, including members of the communities or population groups who could be impacted by the research, to ensure multiple perspectives and support equity. The **Road Map to Impact** is the foundational tool in the Toolkit, and should be completed by all groups, as it lays the groundwork for all other tools and helps to frame the entirety of the project or work. The **Impact Profile** and **Case Study Builder** are the most frequently used tools to-date. Researchers use these tools to write their stories of impact in a succinct way for sharing with a broad audience. The Toolkit also features a dashboard that provides a quick snapshot of progress through the toolkit and also translational impact for each project.



Plan for Impact

- Road Map to Impact** – Map out your plan to achieve impact
- Benefits 2x2** – Identify and prioritize the benefits of your research
- Partner Mapper** – Engage partners based on their influence and interests
- Team Manager** – Identify team members and expertise necessary to achieve impact

Track progress toward indicators of impact

- Impact Tracker** – Benchmark progress on metrics of impact

Demonstrate impact to others

- Product Navigator** – Choose the impact product for your goal and audience
- Case Study Builder** – Tell the story of your impact
- Impact Profile** – Summarize your impact in one page
- Dissemination Planner** – Share your impact products

translationalsciencebenefits.wustl.edu

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TOOLKIT USAGE

We know that more than 15 NIH CTSA programs across the U.S. are using the TSBM to support program evaluation, conduct impact analyses, train investigators, and disseminate the impact of research. Since we launched the online toolkit, more than 250 users (many from CTSAs) have set up accounts, added projects, and begun working through the tools. Researchers who complete the **Case Study Builder** can submit for inclusion on our website. See example below.



Case study submitted by the Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute at Oregon Health & Science University and published on

NEXT STEPS

We are collecting feedback on the ease-of-use of the nine tools through a feedback form on the website, in workshop and training evaluations, and through ad hoc communications with researchers. In our next step, we will conduct formal usability testing with a small group of researchers and administrators familiar with the TSBM framework, then refine and publish a final set of tools.

IMPLICATIONS FOR TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Training the next generation of clinical and public health scientists to prioritize and promote translational impact in their work now is essential. The TSBM and **Translating for Impact Toolkit** provide a structure and language for this process. For example, the Toolkit guides researchers in preparing impact profiles and case studies for the broader public, future grants, promotion and tenure, and more. Earlier and greater focus on impact will help to normalize consideration of translational impact along with traditional metrics such as publications and grants in the evaluation of individuals, projects, and programs.

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