



## **Perspective: Oracle Translational Research Center — Paving the Path to the Translational Transformation**

---

PERSPECTIVE #HI231090

Alan S. Louie, Ph.D.

---

### **IN THIS PERSPECTIVE**

This IDC Health Insights Perspective highlights the announcement of a new healthcare data-centric translational research platform that should help accelerate the broad adoption of translational research across the entire health industry value chain. Translational research promises to empower the link between previously disconnected players (e.g., life science researchers with practicing physicians), delivering near- and long-term benefits to both. At the same time, the approach has the potential to improve the efficiency of new drug development as well as to directly improve patient outcomes today.

Oracle Health Sciences Translational Research Center is an open standards-based IT platform that incorporates many of the key features needed to enable translational research collaboration in the industry. Applicable to users from across the health industry value chain (including academic researchers, life science companies, and healthcare providers), this new solution is expected to provide a practical foundation for accelerated adoption of translational research, enabling users to more effectively access and analyze diverse data in a secure, regulatory-compliant fashion and produce insights that should catalyze process change on the path toward personalized medicine.

---

### **Situation Overview**

From a pharmaceutical industry perspective, access to healthcare patient data has primarily delivered value today through the improved identification of potential clinical trial candidates. HIPAA and informed consent requirements have complicated patient data access, severely limiting both clinical trial candidate identification and other more ambitious research efforts. With the status quo approaches to traditional drug discovery and development in decline, the life science industry has been actively pursuing alternative directions that could hopefully lead to long-term sustainability. Translational research has been identified as one potentially transformational approach that has the potential to deliver demonstrable value over both the near and the long term.

As an emerging approach and one of the latest buzz words du jour, translational research has multiple definitions, depending on who is using the term. For the purposes of this document, translational research is defined as external collaborative research that crosses traditional boundaries (e.g., between pharma and academic researchers, academic medical centers, or healthcare researchers) with a focus on accelerating progress through linking discovery research with patient outcomes.

### ***Oracle Eases the Path to Effective Translational Research***

Oracle's new translational research software platform is an important addition to this emerging space and promises to help move the nascent field forward. Key features of the Oracle Health Sciences Translational Research Center platform include:

- From a platform perspective:
  - Data integration from multiple sources, allowing for streamlined interorganizational sharing of data that may include internal research databases as well as hospital-based electronic health records
  - Foundational data security controls
  - Traceability to support 21 CFR Part 11 regulatory compliance
  - An open standards-based platform approach, empowering IT extensibility as needed
- From a researcher perspective:
  - Healthcare data normalization, enabling effective comparison of data from different patients, different researchers, different institutions, and so forth
  - Powerful analytics and an easy-to-use user interface, enabling rapid adoption and short time to value by a wide variety of users
  - Prebuilt dashboards and operational reports, streamlining operational workflows

While this platform should more effectively streamline existing efforts to identify potential candidates for clinical trials, its potential is much greater. For example, Oracle Health Sciences Cohort Explorer, one of the platform's core components, enables researchers to both identify patients with common clinical attributes and identify specific attributes (and potential biomarkers) that may be common to patients manifesting disease.

## **The Translational Promise**

Translational research promises to better inform research efforts and accelerate improvements in patient outcomes over the near term. For discovery research scientists working within pharma or biotech, data supporting the relationship between disease manifestation in humans can help validate early-stage laboratory models, increasing the likelihood that downstream efforts will be successful. For clinicians, access to data and testing capabilities for genomic or proteomic variants linked to disease provides them with additional information to guide patient treatment decision making, enabling better outcomes sooner. Avoidance of treatments unlikely to work, faster time to remission, and reduced overall patient treatment exposure are all beneficial from a healthcare provider perspective, with tangible benefits that are achieved organizationwide, even when individual treatments don't always result in successful outcomes.

---

## **Essential Guidance**

Progress in advancing new and better medical treatments for disease are fundamentally hampered by highly restricted, physically isolated, and compartmentalized access to key data and information. Additional barriers that separate academic researchers, life science companies, healthcare providers, and healthcare payers hold back progress as well. This comes at a time when we are at the cusp of great discoveries, in large part enabled by technological innovations, including the \$1000 genome, advances in cloud computing, and global Internet access. The timely translation of these discoveries into improved patient outcomes is a core value proposition of translational research that has the potential to deliver both near- and long-term value across the entire health industry value chain.

Oracle's open standards approach, comprehensive healthcare data model, robust scalable IT infrastructure, data security, and regulatory compliance experience are key attributes contained in a well-designed, user-focused platform offering that should raise the baseline for advances in this space. IDC expects that the Oracle Health Sciences Translational Research Center platform will significantly help accelerate the overall adoption of translational research over the next several years.

## **LEARN MORE**

---

### **Related Research**

- *Perspective: The Emerging Commercial Genomics Frontier — BGI Leads the Way* (IDC Health Insights #HI229417, July 2011)

- *Operationalizing Analytics: SAS Brings the Right Information to the Right Person at the Right Time* (IDC Health Insights #HI227642, March 2011)
- *Perspective: Genomic Complexity and Its Role in Personalizing Medicine — More than Just Genes* (IDC Health Insights #HI227024, February 2011)
- *Perspective: Empowering Transformation in the Life Sciences — Key IT Factors to Consider in the Adoption of New Innovations* (IDC Health Insights #HI226683, January 2011)

---

### **Copyright Notice**

Copyright 2011 IDC Health Insights. Reproduction without written permission is completely forbidden. External Publication of IDC Health Insights Information and Data: Any IDC Health Insights information that is to be used in advertising, press releases, or promotional materials requires prior written approval from the appropriate IDC Health Insights Vice President. A draft of the proposed document should accompany any such request. IDC Health Insights reserves the right to deny approval of external usage for any reason.