

24.7.2024

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**Title**

What are Clinician Scientists Expected to do? : The Undefined Space for Professionalizable Work in Translational Biomedicine / Barbara Hendriks ; Arno Simons ; Martin Reinhart

**Publication year**

2019

**Source/Footnote**

In: Minerva. - 57 (2019) 2, S. 151 - 173

**Inventory number**

48227

**Keywords**

Wissenschaft : Medizin ; Wissenschaftlerin ; Wissenschaftler

**Abstract**

Clinician scientists have gained institutional support in the era of translational research, as the key solution to closing the ‘translational gap’ between biomedical research and medical practice. However, clinician scientists remain an ‘endangered species’ in search of a secure niche, while new grants and training programs attempt to counteract their measurable decline in numbers over the past decades. Our study asks how an occupational space for clinician scientists is currently situated between the politics of translation, professional dynamics, and the specialization of academic disciplines. We interviewed clinician scientists, their adjacent professions—clinicians and biomedical researchers—, and contrast their views with expectations from the discourse on clinician scientists in the biomedical and policy literature. We identify professionalizable work and tasks that relate to, first, being able to speak the two languages of both clinic and research, second, translating patients’ needs and clinical experience for further research, and third, counteracting the trends towards specialization by providing an inclusive point of view. We find that clinician scientists are overburdened with

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fulfilling a hybrid role of simultaneously being clinicians and scientists. Based on these findings, we suggest a path for the future professional development of clinician scientists towards the role of a translator. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)