

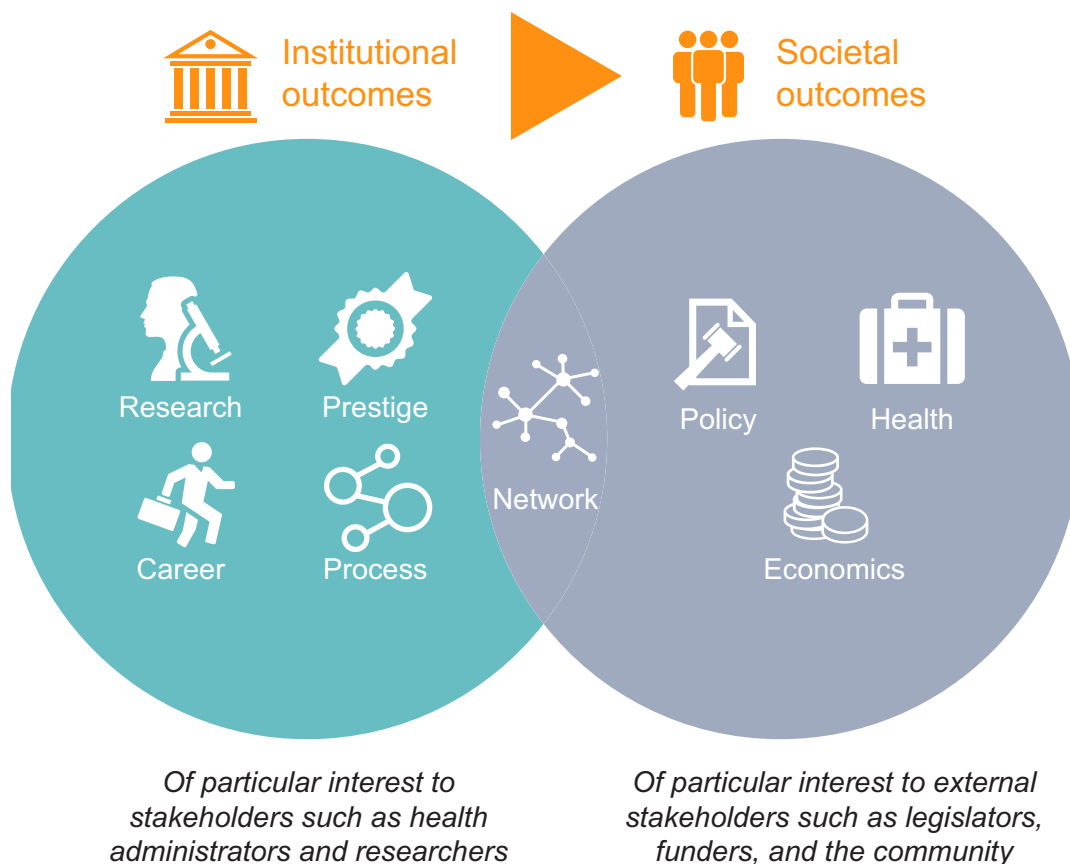
Assessing and Communicating the Value of Biomedical Research

Biomedical research positively affects society in many ways. It improves health, creates jobs, adds to our knowledge, and fosters new collaborations. Despite the complexity of modern research, traditional metrics used to assess the impact of research focus on outcomes that are mainly of interest to the academic community, such as the amount of grant funding received and the number of peer-reviewed publications.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), in collaboration with RAND Europe, has initiated a program to help communicate the full value of biomedical research and respond to increasing expectations for accountability and transparency in the use of research funds. The initiative seeks to provide resources for medical schools and teaching hospitals to evaluate the outcomes and impacts of their research by using novel metrics that appeal to various stakeholders, including patients, providers, administrators, and legislators.

Some of these metrics—a selection of which appears on the reverse side—are of particular interest to stakeholders internal to an academic medical center and are measurable in the short or medium term. Others, such as community-level health and economic outcomes, are longer term and appeal to various audiences outside an academic medical center.

Depending on the stakeholder, different outcomes tend to be of interest:





Indicators of Particular Interest to Internal and Institutional Stakeholders

Research	Career	Prestige	Process	Network
Number of journal articles published	Number of PhD graduates	Number of media appearances	Start-up time for clinical trials	Number of research projects engaging community partners
Number of citations	Five-year career outcomes for PhD students	Number of editorships of high-profile journals	Average time from funding to publication	Number of articles coauthored with community partner
Success rate of grant applications	Number of publications per PhD	Number and type of prizes	Number of projects completed within deadline and budget	Number of collaborations on grant applications
Number and size of grant awards	K ► R award conversion rate	Number of applications per open post	Proportion of funds spent on administration	Number of staff engaged in outreach



Indicators of Particular Interest to External Stakeholders

Economics	Policy	Health	Network
Level of local spending	Number of citations in clinical guidelines	Narrowing of health/health care disparities	Number of research projects engaging community partners
Amount of direct employment	Number of citations in policy documents	Number of treatments developed in-house	Number of articles coauthored with community partner
Number of patent applications and awards	Number of invitations from policymakers	Improved life expectancy of patients	Number of collaborations on grant applications
Number of patent citations	Number of policy secondments	Improved quality of care metrics	Number of staff engaged in outreach

For more information about this AAMC initiative, visit www.aamc.org/researchevaluation.



About our research partner

RAND Europe is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to help improve policy and decision making through research and analysis.
www.randeurope.org