Writing Impact Statements

IMPACT Program Curriculum

Impact statements

An Impact Statement is 1-3 sentences capturing the main aspects of your research and *why it's important.*

The main goal of working on impact statements here is to help you focus on the real core of your work.

It is also useful for things like grant proposals, one sentence summaries, etc.

And, it is useful for those times when someone asks you what you do, and you can state it more specifically than something along the lines of "I'm working on developing early detection of x".

- An Impact Statement should be understandable to any professional (scientist, physician, etc).

- It should be specific, but not detailed.

- It should avoid jargon, and be specific but not detailed.

What is wrong with these IMPACT Statements?

We're developing an MRI method for early detection of arthritis.

We are using T1 maps after IV GdDTPA administration to provide an image of GAG concentration; this should enable an earlier detection of OA.

What is wrong with these IMPACT Statements?

Too general, could apply to a lot of groups

We're developing an MRI method for early detection of arthritis.

Jargon

We are using T1 maps after IV GdDTPA administration to provide an image of GAG concentration; this should enable an earlier detection of OA.

Too general

Impact Statement example

Therapies which might prevent or reverse the effects of osteoarthritis can now be tested for efficacy in patients at risk of early arthritis due to ACL tears, with our MRI technique which images the concentration of the critical glycosaminoglycan molecules in cartilage.

Impact Statement example

- What you did

- What will be different because of it

- Why is it important

Therapies which might prevent or reverse the effects of osteoarthritis can now be tested for efficacy in patients at risk of early arthritis due to ACL tears with our MRI technique which images the concentration of the critical glycosaminoglycan molecules in cartilage.

The impact does not need to be a direct or immediate clinical impact:

- What you did

- What will be different because of it

- Why is it important

Biologists and physiologists can now noninvasively monitor and test hypotheses regarding the degeneration and repair of intact cartilage under conditions of metabolic and mechanical stress with our developed magnetic resonance imaging technique, which images the concentration of the critical glycosaminoglycan molecules in cartilage.

Note: If there are multiple avenues for your work, pick one to work on for the IMPACT curriculum. (Once individuals avenues are clear, it's easier to discuss multiple ones.)

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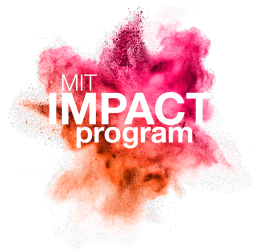
Impact Statement example; longer

Cartilage degeneration frequently occurs rapidly after ligament tears in the knee. We developed an imaging method which utilizes a negatively charged MRI contrast agent to penetrate areas of cartilage depleted of the negatively charged essential proteoglycan molecules in cartilage. This method should enable physicians and pharmaceutical companies to test the utility of rehabilitation schemes or drugs to intervene early and prevent the cascade of cartilage degeneration after injury.

Impact Statement example; less formal

You're probably aware of someone who has had a ligament tear in the knee, such as an ACL tear. It turns out that cartilage degeneration frequently occurs rapidly after ACL tears. We developed an imaging method which utilizes a negatively charged MRI contrast agent to penetrate areas of cartilage depleted of the negatively charged essential proteoglycan molecules in cartilage. This method should enable physicians and pharmaceutical companies to test the utility of rehabilitation schemes or drugs to intervene early and prevent the cascade of cartilage degeneration after injury.

TRY IT!

Your impact statement here

NOTE!

While we're starting with impact statements in order to start the thought process, these are generally difficult to write, and will have to be rewritten as the impact storylines and cases are iterated. So start it, but then move on to working on storylines…