Publishes original, peer-reviewed, science-based research articles that report successful advances toward the goal of improving patients' lives.

The journal's mission is to promote human health by providing a forum for communication and cross-fertilization among basic, translational, and clinical research practitioners and trainees from all relevant established and emerging disciplines.

Examples of content include:
- Investigative studies of human biology with an emphasis on disease, including small clinical trials
- Research on models of human disease with significant implications for disease treatment
- Focus, Perspectives and Reviews that discuss medically related research from a basic science and a clinical point of view
- Commentary on policy, funding, education and regulatory issues in translational medicine
- Survey of recent noteworthy findings from other publications (Editor's Choice)
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The editors and an international advisory group of scientists and clinician-scientists as well as other experts hold Science Translational Medicine articles to the same high-quality standard that is the hallmark of the journal Science.