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Translating Research for Medical Leaders

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Welcome to the first instalment of a new feature of BMJ leader that aims to communicate and translate management research, and research in the social sciences more broadly, to make it accessible and valuable to medical leaders. There is ample research in management in the social sciences, both old and new, that could be of immense use to medical leaders. This work can potentially help medical leaders better analyse the managerial challenges they face, or formulate strategies of action that would allow them to be more effective in their roles. The potential value of this research, however, has not been realized. Management and social sciences research, by and large, has not been communicated to medical leaders, and leaders more broadly, in usable form. This is, in part, because management and social science researchers, to a significant extent, are engaged in a scholarly dialogue with one another, and hence have not done the work to communicate their research and ideas in a way that it would be picked up by medical leaders. It is also, in part, because the pop management literature that is used by medical leaders is to a significant extent disconnected from management and social sciences research, and often from any research whatsoever. The aim of this section is to communicate, on a quarterly basis, management and social sciences research with the intention of making it usable and valuable for medical leaders. The format of this section may vary. It could be a short essay on stream of research, a discussion of a specific paper or book, or an interview with a particular scholar about his or her body of work. In all cases, the overriding aim of this section will be to communicate existing work that has the potential to help medical leaders better analyse and do their work.