

Bringing physiology back into the life sciences

CARL JOHAN SUNDBERG

Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

Over the last 15-20 years, much of biomedical research has been focused on the genetic and genomic aspects of living organisms. As the DNA sequence is mapped for more and more organisms, the next step is to bring understanding to the mRNA and protein expression patterns that are being studied.

Therefore, both classic and novel physiological models are necessary to assess functional aspects linked to genes and gene products. In general, we need to tackle the complexity of biological systems in ways that favor our capabilities to solve these problems, and we need to tackle the issue of translating such biological knowledge from the bench to the bedside.

Finally, for true understanding of human disease it is essential to include human experiments and data as early as possible.