Technology Transfer

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Storytelling

Paula Solís, Opinno Soledad Fernandez, Opinno TO ALL MANAGING DIRECTORS AND ACADEMIC LEADERS AT RESEARCH CENTERS WHO POSITIVELY IMPACT SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES THROUGH THEIR WORK

Partners









Translated







INTRODUCTION		STAGE 2 TRANSFORMATION	STAGE 3 COMMERCIALIZATION
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HOW TO PASS FROM BROKEN INNOVATION TO LINKED INNOVATION?





INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

THE STAGES OF INNOVATION



THE DILEMA: ACADEMIC QUALITY OR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

HOW TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY WHILE PRESERVING ACADEMIC QUALITY?

This was the most common answer given by leaders of research centers when asked to identify their top challenge, according to interviews with:





THE FAILURE IS THE CONTINUING ASSUMPTION THAT RESEARCH CENTERS SHOULD CHOOSE BETWEEN ACADEMIC RIGOR AND ECONOMIC PROFITABILITY

INNOVATION FUNNEL



I KNOW I HAVE A BROKEN INNOVATION PROCESS, AND NOW?

HOW CAN I SOLVE THE LACK OF CONNECTION?

Perceived demand will be met only if the appropriate knowledge or technology is available, and innovation will be realized only if there is a market for it PUSH OF -

Two aspects interconnected:



TWO VARIABLES

These will help you to identify what challenges are more common in research centers like yours



AGE



YOUNG: Research centers that have been created within the last 7 years

that more

MATURE: Research centers that have been created more than 7 years ago

ORIENTATION



INNOVATION: Answering more practitioner-oriented questions (e.g., centers in industry)



STAGE 1 RESEARCH

STAGE 1

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STAGE 1 RESEARCH

2 SYMPTOMS OF BROKEN INNOVATION



ARE YOU EXPERIENCING A DECLINE IN A RESEARCH QUALITY?

ADMINISTRATORS

Prioritizes: Economic metrics

What they want?

- Be economically sustainable to support research activities
- Provide outreach and make research results visible



ARE YOU FACING A DECREASE IN ECONOMIC PROFITABILITY?

RESEARCHERS

Prioritizes: Academic metrics

What they want?

- Greater level of research freedom
- Greater involvement in pure academic research













Are you experiencing a decline in research quality?

B Are you not economically sustainable or experiencing a decrease in economic profitability?

BEST PRACTICE:



Design a holistic group of few KPIs to measure the ongoing progress of your center and align goals

SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:

New projects	KPIs	KPIS + circles, + value - circles, - value		Recommended order of priority			
ACTIVITIES	IMPACT Academic	IMPACT Economic	IMPACT Social	VIABILITY No-risk	Start	Test viability	Decline
RESEARCH							
Apply to the public funding of the institution x1			$\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$		0	?_*	
Apply to the public funding of the institution x2			$\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$	••••	0	2=	<u> </u>
Start negotiations with the institution x3			$\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$	$\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$	0	2-	
INITIATIVES							
Create an open innovation competition with the institution x4					0	2=	10 (
Create a conference with the institution x5			••••			2.	
Propose a consulting project about x1					0	<u>e</u> .	

EXAMPLE: MIT Deshpande Center



MIT Deshpande Center uses holistic metrics in the whole organization, considering academic, economic and social impact

HELPS TO:



B

Innovation Young

IMPORTANT LESSON FOR CENTERS:



Do you know what your research teams A are investing time in?

Do vour researchers know (в) what the center's other researchers are doing?

Are you sure that there is no duplication among your **C** center's research projects?

BEST **PRACTICE:**

MAP **RESEARCHERS'** INTERESTS

Identifying and connecting the focus of researchers in a research map. which illustrates on a single page the interests of each researcher and of the center

SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:

Interest vs. professor	Professor/researcher							Total		
	₿1	² 1 ² 2 ² 3 ² 4 ² 5 ² 6 ² 7						Synergies between research projects		
Alliances / Joint ventures	•									
Behavioral finance	•	•		•		•	•			
Corporate entrepreneurship										
Corporate governance/finance/financial analysis	•	•	٠	•	•	•	•	$\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$		
Electronic market										
Entrepreneurial finance	•			•				$\bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet$		
Innovation										
International business/globalization	•							•••••		

Improve the

research strategy

at the center level

EXAMPLE: Roche



Hoffmann - La Roche uses a knowledge map - a directory that points people who need knowledge to the places where it can be found.

It has three parts. Firstly, the question that must be answered (e.g., to receive drug approval). Secondly, each question points to experts with knowledge in those areas. Thirdly, there are a set of guidelines that instruct knowledge providers as to when and with whom they should be sharing their knowledge. Lastly, a best-practice repository.

HELPS TO:

Reduce the cost Identify synergies between research of duplication projects



Recognize collaborations with non academic units assignment of project needs to research interests

Increase networking opportunities among researchers

within the institution

Improve the

IMPORTANT LESSON FOR CENTERS:

Research

Mature



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Mature

Innovation



A Do you lack either the academic or business expertise for your strategy?

Do you find it difficult to assess the potential economic impact that a project may have on the industry?

3 BEST PRACTICE:



Attract and recruit an international advisory board

SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:

ADD A GREAT TEAM OF ADVISORS TO HELP THE MISSION

Some benefits of the advisory board

Designing the research roadmap Ensuring sustainability planning Positioning the internal knowledge in the market Referring to partnership Supporting internships Assessing technology Understanding the value proposition to industry Preparing candidates for research in the industry Enhancing technical capabilities Assessing the market Great advisors with a lot of experience and expertise complement their skills. Advisors guide to help avoid mistakes and to expand the network of investors, partners and/or clients



EXAMPLE: Cornell Tech



Cornell Tech recruited a professional investor with research experience to increase the number of spin-offs from research projects and to assess built projects involving the institution's faculty and business units

HELPS TO:

B



Identify and give visibility to how those initiatives affect the external and internal ecosystem

IMPORTANT LESSON FOR CENTERS:





A ls your executive team failing to understand the preferences and mindset of the institution's academics?

B Is it difficult for your executive team to handle academic environments?

• Has the academic rigor of your publications declined recently?





Use a professional recruitment and consider splitting the leadership in two SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:



2

CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT FIRMS

To fill a talent gap or a weakness

EXAMPLE: Knowledge Circle of Amsterdam



The Knowledge Circle of Amsterdam meets regularly to formulate and propose ideas for enhancing knowledge based development. "After hours clubs in New York City can also be considered as a consensus space, providing venues for artists, fashion designers, and other creative individuals to develop new projects across arts and fashion" research institutions

HELPS TO:





Ensure that someone will keep the academic rigor and the financial sustainability















ARE YOU FACING A DECREASE IN ECONOMIC PROFITABILITY?



STAGE 2 TRANSFORMATION

STAGE 2

STAGE 2 TRANSFORMATION

2 SYMPTOMS OF BROKEN INNOVATION

ARE YOU GETTING PRODUCTS NO ONE WANTS TO BUY?

Assuming what the market needs, without validating what the market actually wants



Following exactly what the market says that it currently needs, without taking into account what the market will desire in the future





A Do you have products that no one wants to buy?

B Do you lack market traction when you reach the commercialization stage of your discoveries?

C Do your competitors identify market opportunities before you do?

from what does not work



→ MAP MARKET NEEDS

> Use a market map to identify the needs of potential partners with design thinking to increase the chances to have their interest

SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:



EXAMPLE: Ideo

IDEO

IDEO, a global design company that creates positive impact through design and applies this concept in their research processes

HELPS TO:



IMPORTANT LESSON FOR CENTERS:







• Do you have products that no one wants to buy?

Do you lack market traction when you reach the commercialization stage of your discoveries? Do your competitors identify market opportunities before you do?

1.1 BEST PRACTICE:

→ MAP MARKET NEEDS

> Use a market map to identify the needs of potential partners with design thinking to increase the chances to have their interest

SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:

PROFILING PARTNERS VERIFYING NEEDS

Which type of companies do you think would pay for the discoveries or knowledge assets?

- Check databases that analyze the weeknesses of companies/sectors
 Review the strategic/annual plan of companies
- Spend time with companies' executives in casual conversations

IDENTIFYING COMPANIES

Contact those businesses to validate the model, trying to discover their pain points

DECEADOUEDO





(C)

<								RESEARCHERS			
TOTAL	21	₿ 2	Ö 3	₿ 4	Ö 5	<u>ලි</u> 6	₿ 7	ලි 8			
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6											
- 3											
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- 3											
• 1											

EXAMPLE: Barcelona Supercomputing Center



Barcelona Supercomputing Center Centro Nacional de Supercomputación Barcelona Supercomputing Center constantly analyzes what are the needs of the market through a specific team, finding a fit with the research and development team

HELPS TO:

(в`











Are the results of your Α research projects irrelevant to the market?

During research processes, do your interviewees not want to repeat the process because you take up too much of their time?

В

Do you exceed the estimated budget of your projects or increase the analysis sample to a size that does not change the conclusions?





FOLLOWING LEAN RESEARCH PRINCIPLES

To maximize your learning speed and minimize your testing cost

SOLUTION **TO THIS PROBLEM:**

FOLLOW THE LEAN RESEARCH PRINCIPLES



TEST THE HYPOTHESES

Is important because great work is frequently achieved via quick iteration, repeating the formulation and testing of smaller hypotheses to achieve a bigger goal

If not you could invest an enormous amount of time and money in a project that might not go anywhere



SHORT FEDDBACK LOOPS

By asking the interviewer whether they would like to include any additional thing, and after collected and analyzed pivot your prototype

FAILING QUICKLY

C

Allows to understand your problem and continually **improve**

EXAMPLE: MIT

designing for a more equitable world

Lean research has been championed by faculty and researchers at MIT D-Lab





IMPORTANT LESSON FOR CENTERS:









Does your research team (в) invest too much time in non academic issues?

How easy is it for your research team to network with the industry to gather data, invite guest speakers and disseminate their discoveries?





Complement skills and resolve the problem of lack of knowledge in specific areas related to transforming the discovery into an invention

SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:



EXAMPLE: Harvard Innovation Lab



Harvard Innovation Lab offers services to the Harvard community such as coaching through entrepreneurs in residence, investors in residence, legal partners, visiting practitioners, experts, etc.

HELPS TO:



Ensure a product-market

fit prior to a formal launch





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<u>S</u> Research Innovation Young



TEAMS LACKING ACADEMIC OR EXECUTIVE PROFILES

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS TO CHECK WHETHER YOU HAVE THIS PROBLEM:

Are your teams formed of only academics or only non academics? **A**

Do researchers and executives understand each other in terms of language, performance metrics, timing, and mindsets?

(в





Having diverse teams of executives and academics enhances rigor and relevance

EXAMPLE: Deutsche Telekom Laboratories

SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:



the "language", concept and goals of both sides

HELPS TO:



During this collaboration the two partners included hybrid profiles who had a natural interest in the application of work oriented toward R&D and who understood both the academic and practitioner environments



Have a noticeable impact in academic research centers in translating discoveries to inventions



Research

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BEST

3

• Do your researchers welcome and follow your suggestions?

B Do they follow the research center's strategy?

E

• Are they aligned with the center's vision and mission?

STAGE 2: TRANSFORMATION

「 「 「 「 「 「 「 「 「 」 「 」 「 」 」 」 」 」 」 MEASURE THE ABILITY TO BE COACHABLE

PRACTICE:

Include the indicator "coachable" in the recruitment, evaluation, and incentive scheme of your researchers to increase the likelihood of commercialization

SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:



MENTOR YOUR RESEARCHERS

Educate and guide research teams during the transformation stage, help them to progress and figure out what to do

BE AVAILABLE TO GUIDE THE RESEARCH TEAM

EXAMPLE: Johns Hopkins University



Johns Hopkins University employs former venture capitalists. Its mission is to support the faculty as they think about, prepare, and advise on the opportunity for commercialization of Hopkins technologies

HELPS TO:

SELECT WHO WILL LISTEN

TO MENTOR'S SUGGESTIONS

Be aligned and avoid duplicity





Research Young Young









ARE YOU GETTING OUTDATED PRODUCTS?



STAGE 3 COMMERCIALIZATION

STAGE 3

STAGE 3 COMMERCIALIZATION

2 SYMPTOMS OF BROKEN INNOVATION 1 ARE YOU FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO MONETIZE YOUR KNOWLEDGE ASSETS?

You are probably **doing only research collaborations** with industry to nurture your research



ARE YOU HAVING MORE TROUBLE GETTING ACCESS TO INDUSTRY DATA AND NETWORKS?

You are probably seen as a **furtive sales researcher**







Are your research collaborations only a matter of gathering data?

(в

Are you seen as a furtive research seller by other stakeholders?

(**c**)

Do you find it difficult to sustain long-term collaborations with industry?



SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:



DESIGN A COLLABORATIVE BUSINESS MODEL

Understand the possible benefits of each actor (i.e., government, industry or university). Then design a win-win collaboration that generates mutual benefit

THE 12 MOST COMMON BUSINESS MODELS IDENTIFIED ARE:

9.1.1 9.1.2 9.1.3 9.1.4 Short-term Medium-term Long-term Internal contracting through external external external transfer pricing contracting contracting contracting 9.1.5 9.1.6 9.1.8 9.1.7 Freemium Technology Creation Research product/ transfer by licensing of spin-offs service public funding 9.1.9 9.1.10 9.1.11 9.1.12 Short-term Long-term The search The consultancy marketing marketing model joint venture collaboration collaboration





































publishing + distribution

Are you unable to (в attract industry partners for collaborations?

Are you consolidated but want to extend your institution's brand? **C**



Opportunities to increase the impact of brand awareness in other geographies and give the knowledge created greater outreach

POSITIONED

INSTITUTIONS

OR COMPANIES

EXAMPLE: Opinno



Opinno uses a partnership to disseminate in Latin America and Spain the 10 most breakthrough technologies of the year (among other tech-related findings) according to the MIT Technology Review

HELPS TO:



Disseminate the knowledge and content

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PARTNER WITH

A FIRM, E.G.: CONSULTANCIES

Increase the brand awareness of the center







Are you creating more value than the value perceived by the non academic market? Are your researchers unaware of who to contact within your organization to maximize the impact and outreach of their research results?



RETHINK YOUR

Create a clear and scalable process of internal and external communications that maximizes the value proposition offered to media

SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM:

3 PRINCIPLES IDENTIFIED TO OPTIMIZE THE OUTREACH OF RESULTS:

D1 MAP FUNCTIONS

Who do I have to contact when I have to do something related to communication? Then give this map to each researcher

"WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I ... ?"



(в`

Communication units of research centers were sometimes internally unconnected. Two people were doing almost the same task, talking with the same external contact or using only a few channels to communicate. However, a cascade process leverages your internal structure to maximize the external impact. E.g.:



HELPS TO:



Solve the problems of work in external communication silos



Give specific pieces of information to a very segmented type of journalist, based on her interests.

Generate internal CRM with all journalists segmented by topic of interest and geographic areas: know to whom specifically you should write

EXAMPLE: University of Michigan



Centers at University of Michigan are already applying these principles, getting best practices from the tool kit that the university shares among its research units IMPORTANT LESSON FOR CENTERS:







SOLUTION

TO THIS PROBLEM:

B Do you lack internal research capability?





To improve your research capabilities by partnering with researchers who are renowned



EXAMPLE: IBM Faculty Awards



The IBM Faculty Awards, support basic research, curriculum innovation, and educational assistance in specifc focus areas. The program is intended, firstly, to foster collaboration between researchers at leading universities worldwide and those in IBM research, development, and services organizations. Second, to promote innovation to stimulate growth in disciplines and geographic areas that are strategic to IBM

HELPS TO:





Research Innovation Mature Mature





BEST

Does the market fail to understand what you are doing in your research center? B Do you lack a network for university-industry collaborations?

Do you have a technology that generates value of which your customers fail to perceive?



To have clearly identified the benefits to a potential client



TO THIS PROBLEM:

SOLUTION

200

PERIODIC LECTURES TO INDUSTRY LEADERS

INCLUDE SERIES OF

INDUSTRY SPEAKERS



In these lectures, professors with experience in industry-university collaboration or the director of the technology-transfer unit, would explain the implications and applications of the research projects, explaining the **value propositions** via quantified value and success cases

(c

Industry proffesionals invited to the center for **speaking engagements**, followed by a meeting with center's faculty and a look at the center's facilities

EXAMPLE: MIT Technology Review

MIT Technology Review MIT Technology Review has a magazine that shares insights from faculty (and other experts) to equip its audiences with the intelligence to understand a world shaped by technology

HELPS TO:









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A Do you have a recognized and renowned research center but lack industry collaborations? Have you spoken already to all the big players in your sector and did not found how to keep your client portfolio growing?

13 BEST PRACTICE:



[◎] ADAPT THE ℌ SIZE OF TEAMS

In some ecosystems, the majority of enterprises are smallor medium-size and doesn't have specialized resources to work with complex research teams. Adapting the size of those can ease the collaboration

TO THIS PROBLEM:

SOLUTION





IMPORTANT:

Consider the **relevant industry's characteristics** when designing the **internal structure** of the research center and the research teams



BARRIERS

are generally caused by the center's internal **politics and bureaucracy**

EXAMPLE: Several Spanish Research Centers



In Spain, 99.9% of local industry is composed of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The budget, expertise, and internal structures of these companies are unable to absorb large research teams. For instance, SMEs might not have enough budget or they might lack the internal knowledge to talk with the research center's experts or absorb the center's discoveries

HELPS TO:

(в`



IMPORTANT LESSON FOR CENTERS:



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Are you designing a strategic plan without taking into account the (A vision and mission of your research center?

Are you going to implement a new commercialization initiative but you do not know which stakeholders in В vour institution should approve the proposal or whether you should ensure their buy-in?





Understand the mind-set of the academic or executive with whom you are sitting

SOLUTION **TO THIS PROBLEM:**

GAINING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORGANIZATION

Taking into account **3** considerations:



EXAMPLE: Merck



Merck introduced a scouting organization within the Word Wide Licensing and Knowledge Management group, growing from 11 to 65 employees in 2011. It is a team that generates novel opportunities for the company, developing connections with Merck's internal research units and with outside partners such as entrepreneurs and venture capital firms

HELPS TO:



Have a network map of your institution, know the key decision-makers (then you could focus explanation of initiatives of

> **IMPORTANT LESSON** FOR CENTERS:





BEST



Have you been involved in a research project with (в verv undefined end-date?

DEFINE A CLEAR

STRATEGY & LISTEN

Detailed deliveries, timings and scope to avoid any misalignment

Do you usually exceed the initial budget of ad hoc research projects?



SOLUTION

EXAMPLE: Audi + Technical University of Munich



Audi proposed a strategic collaboration with the Technical University of Munich (TUM), through the establishment of a research institute near the Audi headquarters that would support more than 100 Ph.D. students working on technology and innovation issues vital to Audi's competiveness

HELPS TO:

Solve problems of ad hoc research projects



RESULTS Before the final delivery Meet and talk regularly

INDUSTRY

02

PRE-SELL

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IMPORTANT LESSON FOR CENTERS:







TO THIS PROBLEM:

Do you have a very low acceptance rate of proposals for public funding?





To increase the acceptance rate hire a specialist or partner with external consultancies



SOLUTION

Have a specialist unit of a few experts working on those funding programs

They can provide templates, benchmarks, proposals previously submitted by the institution, etc.

DIFFERENCE DIFFICULTY BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING



STEPS

EXAMPLE: Max Planck Innovation

Max-Planck-Innovation

Max Planck Innovation has set up various incubators to validate the industrial relevance of inventions resulting from basic research - to achieve closer links with the industry and the market

HELPS TO:

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CONCLUSIONS STAGE 3: COMMERCIALIZATION



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This study is part of a project that has received funding from the European Union's Erasmus+: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices under EAC/A03/2016 (grant agreement № 2017 - 2875 / 001 - 001).