# A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ON LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EVOLUTION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES AT UCSD

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## WHY DO WE NEED TO INNOVATE AND TRANSFER ECHNOLOGY?

Innovation
Ignites
Wealth Engines

#### **Economic Growth**

Studies show half of GDP growth of last decades due to innovation

#### High-tech Jobs

→ E.g., Transistor/Integrated Circuit → Semiconductor Industry: 255,000 U.S. Jobs

2002 Sales: \$70B

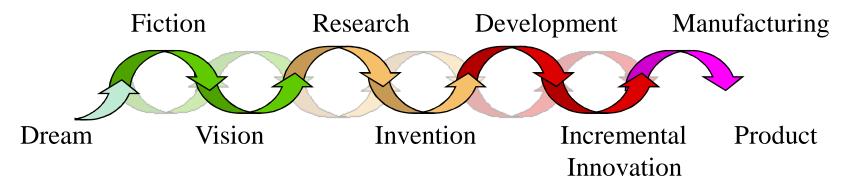
- E.g., MIT spin-offs\*
  - 4,000 companies; 1.1 million employees
  - Annual world sales of \$232 B

University Spin-offs play an increasingly important role in High Tech driven economies

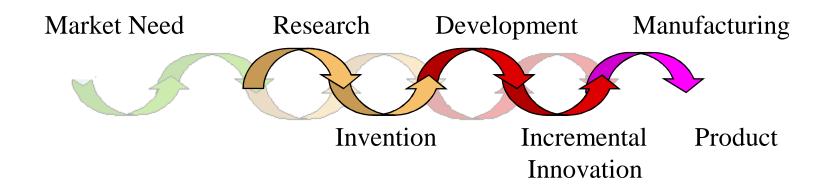
## The Bumpy Road from Dream to Reality



#### Tech push: Science or Technology Driven Innovation



#### **Application pull: Market Driven Innovation**



Key Challenge:

Speeding up the pace of innovation to maintain economic growth

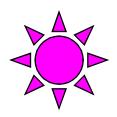
### The Four Key Components of High Technology



Administrative Government-State Regional

#### **Innovative**

Universities
Small R&D Companies
Large Company R&D
National Labs



#### Manufacturing

Content Providers
Defense Industry
Technology Platform Providers
Equipment Manufacturers

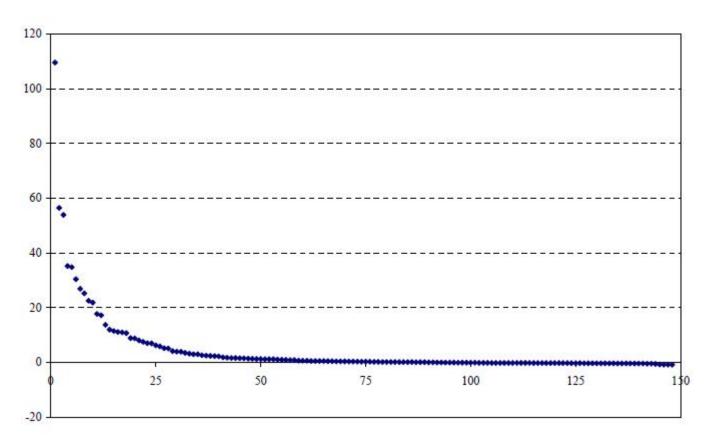
#### **Financial**

Angels VC Banks Large Companies

## Tech Transfer: Impact on Universities Beyond the Bayh-Dole act (1980)

- The number of universities with a technology transfer office (TTO) increased from 25 in 1980 to 200 in 1990
- A 15-fold increase in university patenting and a more than 5-fold increase in the number of universities granted patents were observed between 1965 and 1992 (Henderson, Jaffe and Trajtenberg, 1998).
- Licenses and options executed by 55 U.S. universities increased 139% between 1991 and 2001, and their gross license revenue increased 485% between 1991 and 2001.
- The aggregate gross license revenue obtained by all U.S. universities approached \$1 billion in FY 2002
- The licensing income generated is found to be the most important criterion by which TTO offices measure their success (Thursby, Jensen, and Thursby, 2001)
- HOWEVER, only a few U.S. universities are obtaining large returns,, whereas others are continuing with these activities despite negligible or negative returns.

## Net Licensing Returns of U.S. Universities, 1998-2002 (in million dollars)



Harun Bulut and GianCarlo Moschini 2006 U.S. Universities' Net Returns from Patenting and Licensing: A Quantile Regression Analysis

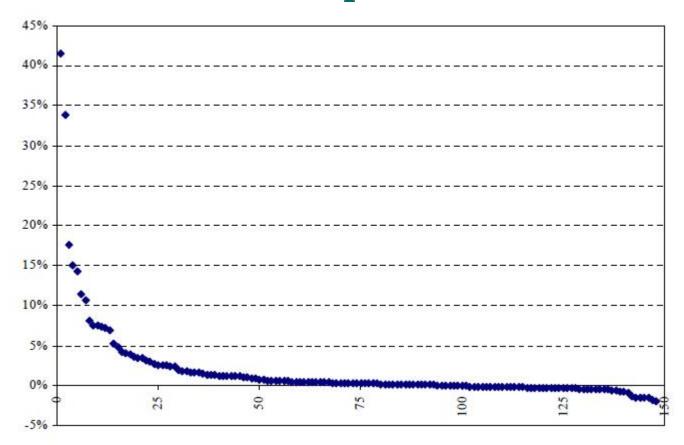
## Data on U.S. Universities, 1998-2002: Descriptive Statistics

U.S. Universities	N	Variables	Min	Median	Max	Mean	Std. Dev.
All	148	Net Returns	-0.80	0.31	109.59	4.42	12.53
		Size	9.7	116.9	2,079.2	183.7	224.7
		Quality	0.6	318	2,691	485	519
		State R&D	0.0003	0.021	0.209	0.031	0.036
Public & No	45	Net Returns	-0.39	-0.03	4.02	0.47	1.06
Medical School		Size	17.9	67.1	426.4	110.2	96.5
		Quality	0.6	169	780	218	196
		State R&D	0.0003	0.013	0.070	0.018	0.019
Private & No	11	Net Returns	-0.77	0.24	26.97	4.12	8.23
Medical School		Size	16.9	44.5	780.3	147.4	224.9
		Quality	179	385	2,362	740	817
		State R&D	0.0063	0.056	0.209	0.060	0.053
Public &	59	Net Returns	-0.80	0.31	56.50	4.58	11.28
Medical School		Size	9.7	163.4	2,079.2	222.8	284.3
		Quality	3	325	1,882	469	407
		State R&D	0.0013	0.021	0.209	0.030	0.031
Private &	33	Net Returns	-0.29	1.65	109.59	9.61	20.46
Medical School		Size	25.0	184.7	1,120.0	226.1	210.3
		Quality	29	627	2,691	794	674
		State R&D	0.0019	0.036	0.209	0.043	0.047

Harun Bulut and GianCarlo Moschini 2006

U.S. Universities' Net Returns from Patenting and Licensing: A Quantile Regression Analysis

## Net Licensing Returns as a Fraction of Total Research Expenditures of U.S.



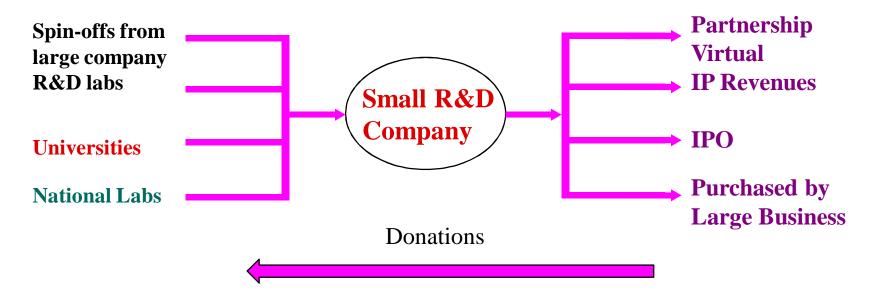
Harun Bulut and GianCarlo Moschini 2006

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### Explosive growth in Small R&D Business in the 90's



#### 50% of US High Tech Workers became employed in Small Businesses



#### **Strengths:**

- Agility-flexibility-ability to learn
   Open to novelty
   Understanding of market constraints
- High productivity Frugal
- High return promise to investors
- Low margins in manufacturing

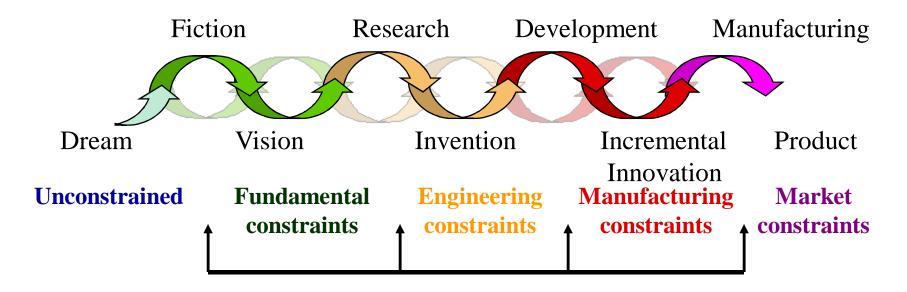
#### **Vulnerabilities:**

- Uncertain access to technology platforms
- Vulnerable during economic recession
   ts Virtually big through alliances
- Require short innovation cycles for quick profitability

## The Bumpy Road from Dream to Reality



**Barriers to Innovation** 



Formation of Barriers preventing idea-knowledge-technology transition

Key Challenge:

Removing barriers to Innovation and Tech Transfer

#### **EXTRINSIC BARRIERS TO INNOVATION TRANSITION**



#### **Human factors**

- Lack of proper education-training
  - entrepreneurs,
  - venture capitalists
  - technology managers
  - educated workforce
- Cultural
  - •Risk taking

**Technological factors** 

**Economic factors** 

**Political factors** 

Not invented here syndrome

## **Overcoming the Intrinsic Barriers**

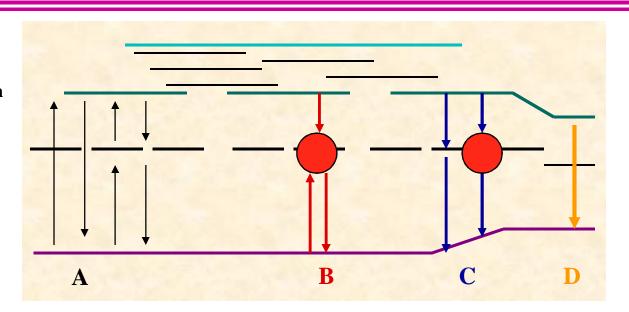


**Basic Research** 

**Applied Research** 

**Development** 

**Manufacturing** 



Vision

**Inventions** 

**Innovations** 

**Product** 

### When there is a gap there is an opportunity!

#### A) Exchange of personnel

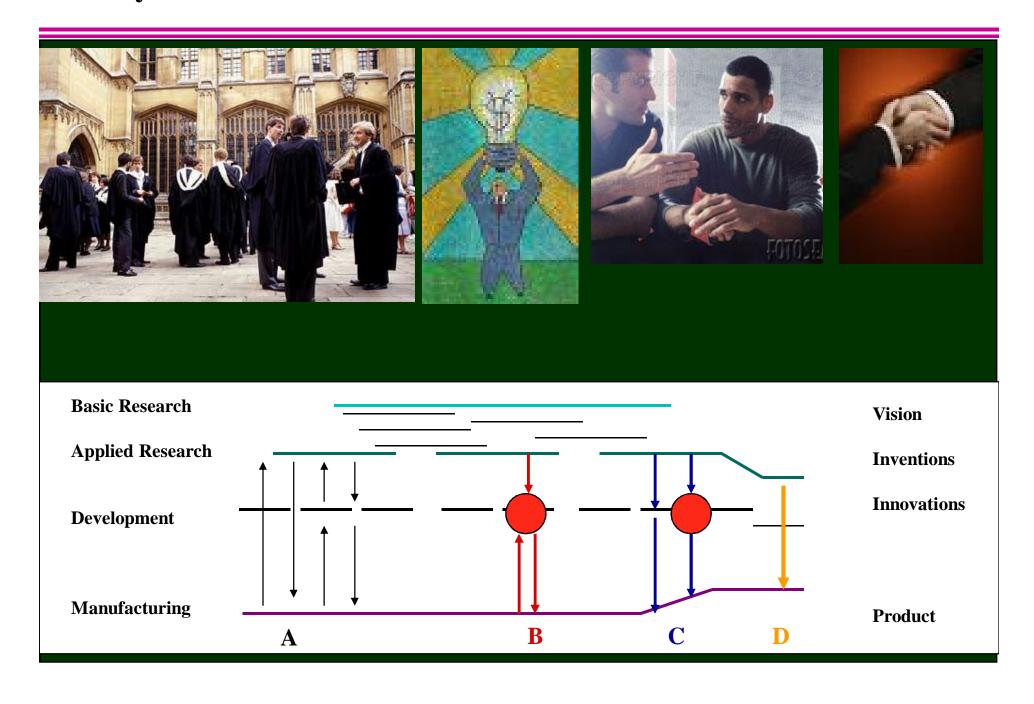
- Graduating students
- Industrial visitors
- Faculty engineer exchange
- Employee carries invention through

## B) Applications Centers Small Business

#### C) Consortia

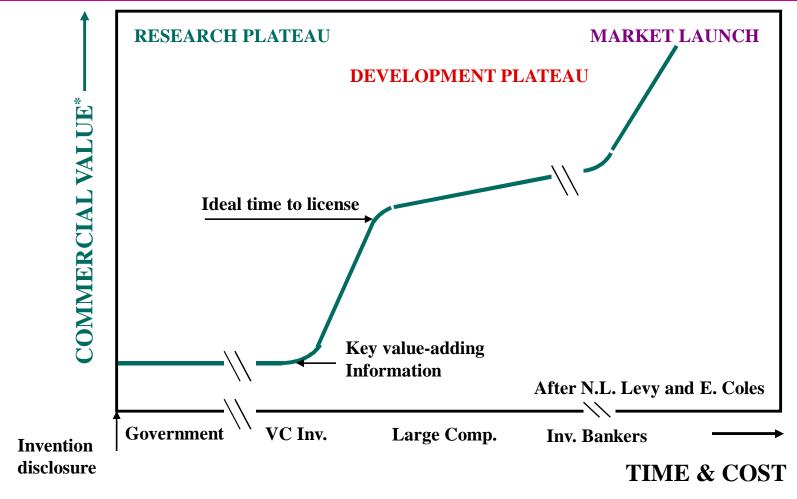
- University-Industry
   Research centers of excellence
- Small Business -University

## **Key to success: CONVERGENCE OF DIFFERENT WORLDS**



## **Impact of Barriers**



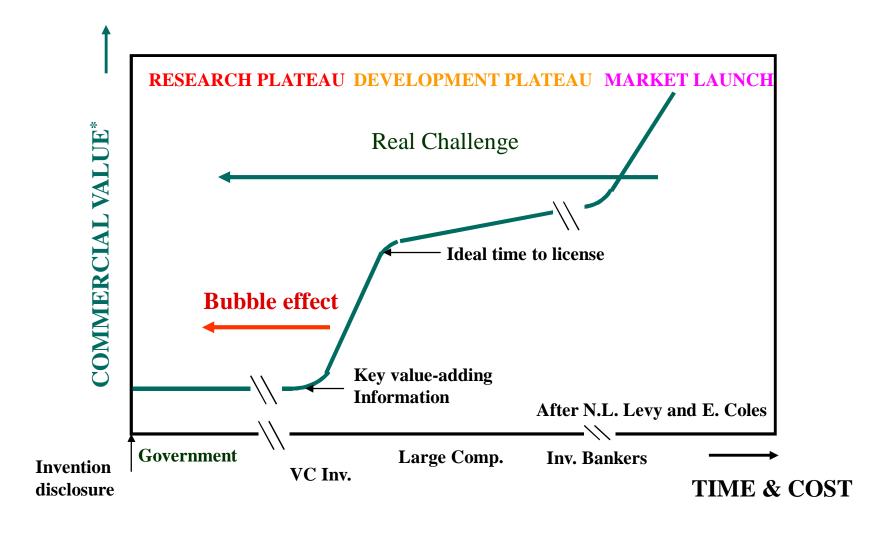


\* Value refers to the sum that would be paid for the technology by a license

BARRIERS EXTEND THE DURATION AND COST OF DEVELOPMENT LIMITING ECONOMIC GROWTH

## Bridging the gap: Which gap?





## The Bumpy Road from Market Need to Product

Market Driven Innovation (rarely happens at Universities Except University Hospitals)

Market Need Research Development Manufacturing

Invention Incremental Product

Innovation

Examples: Invention of Mouse GUI



### **Timeliness of the Innovation**

- Is there a need now? If not when?
- What is the state of the competition?
- Which supporting technologies are needed? Are they available?
- Is the cost compatible with market constraints

## Starting it right



**Selecting Partners** 

Technical team

Business team

Angels and Venture Team

Selecting Location and Ecosystem

Selecting your customers

Managing risk factors

Setting up the right interaction with TTOs standardization or case by case

### **CONCLUSIONS**



For the university and faculty to derive benefits from innovation

- •Promote innovation culture with the right ecosystem
- •Find ways of planning the innovations such that they are timely
- •Understand and manage conflicts of interest
- •Team up with a seasoned business team and define exit strategy
- •Clearly define your risks and risk management approach
- •Donate some of the proceeds back to the university

- •TTO office should be able to see the big picture and understand how the particular innovation will benefit the university in the long term. Establish a suitable strategy to maximize gain in the long run
- •Create suitable ecosystem to facilitate local and global alliances
- •Establish a culture for donations