Funding of IP generation/innovation and protection

Dr Vinet Coetzee
University of Pretoria
South Africa
Science will unlock Africa’s potential — if it is funded

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Bonisile Luthuli – an Africa Health Research Institute PhD student. (Africa Health Research Institute)
Funding is crucial

• Research and Development (R&D) is an important driver for economic growth [1].
  • Every dollar invested in R&D generates nearly two dollars in return [1].

• R&D plays a crucial role in meeting the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs).
Funding is crucial, but limited
Figure 1. Where are R&D investments made?


gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD)
Funding is crucial, but limited

• Countries in sub-Saharan Africa spend, on average, just 0.7% of their GDP on R&D (GERD) [2].

• This proportion hasn’t shown significant increases over the past decade [2]
Differs from country to country

Mostly government funding
Substantial portion of the funding from non-African organisations

Such as European Union, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), the UK-based Wellcome Trust and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Business enterprise fund relatively little R&D compared to other world regions.
A new collaborative approach
University-Industry collaborations
University-Industry collaborations

+ Impact
Improving University-Industry collaborations

**Before**

- **Willingness** to collaborate
- IP considerations
- Willingness to share info

- Improve **communication** skills

- Improve **understanding** of the commercialisation process

**During**

- Increase **institutional flexibility**
  - more flexible priorities

- Increase **honesty**
  - Fairness, openness and honesty

- Increase **clarity**
  - clear aims, agreeing on responsibilities / roles

- Raise the partner’s **awareness**
  - current economic, political or social developments. [3]
References

1. UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2. UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Global investments in R&D.
Thank you