

## ***Innovation and Technology Transfer for Global Health***

### ***'Bridging the Gap in Global Health Innovation – From Needs to Access'***

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#### SESSION SUMMARIES – PLENARY LECTURE<sup>1</sup>

“Health Innovation: the neglected capacity of developing countries to address neglected diseases”

Dr Carlos Morel, Scientific Director, Center for Technological Development in Health, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

*Developing countries face health challenges and science and innovation challenges. National systems of innovation and modes of technological upgrading distinguish leaders from laggards. Countries can improve if they recognise and address the dichotomy between science, production and innovation. Investment into R&D, 'active' learning and entrepreneurship should enable translation of research outputs into health innovations that benefit the poor and aid economic growth.*

It is important for science, technology and production to be well connected, to interact and to complement each other. In developed countries where this is the case, outputs are innovative and functional markets enable prices to be made affordable. However, in many developing countries there is a disconnect between scientific production and the transformation of this knowledge into practice. Entrepreneurship is essential to transform science and technology into innovation and ultimate economic development; and knowledge management supporting active learning is also key (as illustrated by progress in countries such as Korea).

Three types of failures faced by developing countries were discussed – the failure of science and insufficient knowledge leading to a lack of solutions, failure of the market leading to a products being inaccessible and failures of public health such as a lack of good governance. Public private partnerships work across different sectors to help deal with these failures.

Health innovation depends on several key components, including management of IP. It is important to strengthen human capacity in this area. Financing access to medicine is another important issue. Organizations such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) can help; but it is important to support financing mechanisms by a number of other approaches which governments can develop, such as strong civil society participation and mobilization and a comprehensive and fair treatment system.

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared by Rachele Harris and Sarah Miller. Please address any comments or queries regarding this session summary to [andrew.farlow@economics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.farlow@economics.ox.ac.uk).