
Medical products: From laboratory to market in Africa

Charles Wambebe, B.Pharm, PhD

International Biomedical Research Institute, Abuja, Nigeria

Research environment in sub-Saharan Africa is not generally conducive to scientific innovations . Partnerships between academia and business community are few, weak and just emerging. The regulatory structures needed to provide regulatory leadership for drug development lack requisite trained personnel and infrastructure. Most scientists are unaware and unable to fund patenting of their innovations. In some cases, changing the culture of transforming innovations to products is resisted. Scientists need mentoring in concept development and funding by investment community. Biotechnology is still emerging in sub-Saharan Africa. Therefore, African scientists are not yet seizing the unique opportunity of biotechnology in innovations. Furthermore, culture of taking business risks, developing concepts, validating the concepts through business incubators are crucial to move from lab to market. Success story of medicine developed and produced in sub-Saharan Africa will be highlighted.