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**Moving from Lab to Market: Models of Knowledge Translation (KT) in Canada**

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**Takeaways and recommendations**

**Successful KT models**

* The Centre for Drug Research and Development acts as a global bridge between ideas and commercial opportunities with laboratories and in-house expertise, using a shared risk/reward model.
* TRIUMF Innovations Inc. is the commercialization arm of the TRIUMF, Canada’s national particle and nuclear physics facility, specializing in spin-offs, collaborations, licensing, technology assessment and partnering.
* MaRS Innovation operates in the “valley of death”, targeting high-potential projects for: milestone-based de-risking; intellectual property management (IP); assistance in company creation; interim management; and seed capital. Its start-ups remain in Canada and specialize in the areas of health information technology, medical devices and therapeutics.
* The Canadian Association of University Research Parks operates 27 parks in Canada, 75% of which have accelerator programs or incubator space.
* Takeda Canada brought its incubator model to Canada which focuses on public-private partnerships and targets Canadian technology firms seeking to go global.

**Best practices for KT**

* Growing, training and engaging local talent is an essential component of knowledge translation.
* Wrap experienced boards and advisors around emerging CEOs.
* When transferring knowledge to emerging companies, ask tough questions early, plan to scale and kill programs early if necessary.

**Policy considerations**

* Canada is only advanced life sciences nation without a large, domestic anchor company.
* Canada has ample funding for scientific development but needs to devote additional resources to IP development and marketing.
* Consider expanding the scope of the Scientific Research and Experimental Development tax credit program to include innovation activities such as marketing.
* Canada needs to make bigger bets and offer longer-term support as opposed to the current peanut butter approach of spreading knowledge translation efforts thinly.
* Canada needs to do a better job of attracting specialized talent. Often when recruited talent do not succeed in the short term, they stay awhile and return home.
* Canada must build up expertise in multiple verticals, followed by long-term commitment and focus by companies and government.