Technology as a driver of medical progress and access: the role of universities

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University Decisions about What to Research & How to Share It Are the Key to Global Health
Universities and the innovation system
Universities and the innovation system

- Health system
- Global governance agencies (WHO, WTO, WIPO, ...)
- Intellectual property system
- Political and economical context
Universities and the innovation system

Universities:

- Are the **main source of knowledge** and new technologies in early stages to the industry → a important stakeholder on licensing agreements
- **Participate on key steps of drug development** and can serve as a third party observer → e.g. clinical trials, pharmacoeconomical studies, ...
- Are **heavily public funded**, therefore have to provide accountability for its results.

**Universities can use their unique positions as public interest, largely publicly funded research institutions to address access to medicines challenges.** By prioritizing research on global diseases, neglected by for-profit research and development (R&D), they can pioneer new treatments that will benefit millions in underserved populations. And by **sharing their medical breakthroughs under open, non-exclusive licenses, or licenses that promote to access in all income countries**, universities can help patients worldwide access new or improved lifesaving treatments.
Who we are

- **Global**: Worldwide student-driven organization
- **Chapter**: Chapters at over 100 universities, in over 20 different countries
- **Interdisciplinary**: Students with different degrees from areas such as medicine, science, public health, economics, and many other areas

The focus of the organization has expanded from only asking how universities can best license their innovations to promote global access, to also asking how universities can best direct and measure their research to have the greatest social impact worldwide, and promoting these ideals at the national and international levels.
What we believe

Global Charter for the Advancement of Equitable Biomedical R&D

http://www.equitablernd.org/
What we do

Global Access Licensing Framework

• One of UAEM’s core activities.
• Universities should have a clear and access oriented licensing policy → non-exclusive licensing.
• Technology transfer should preserve future innovation by ensuring that intellectual property does not act as a barrier to further research or to generic production.

Every university-developed technology with potential for further development into a drug, vaccine, or medical diagnostic should be licensed with a concrete and transparent strategy to make affordable versions available in resource-limited countries for medical care.
What we do

University Report Cards

- US, Canadian, UK and German versions.
- Focus on 3 questions:
  - Are universities **investing in innovative medical research** that **addresses the neglected health needs** of low-income communities worldwide?
  - When universities **license** their medical breakthroughs for commercial development, **are they doing so in socially responsible ways** that ensure those treatments reach developing world patients at affordable prices?
  - Are universities **educating the next generation of global health leaders** about the crucial impact that academic institutions can have on global health through their research and licensing activities?

The University Report Cards **evaluates** research universities on **their contributions to urgent global health research and access to treatment worldwide**.
What we do

*New* Global Transparency Campaign

- Involves all UAEM regions.
- Is linked to the RnD principles.
- Three pillars with independent but still interlinked focuses:
  - Transparency in clinical trials
  - RnD
  - Pricing

UAEM will hold universities (and/or publicly funded research institutions) worldwide accountable for **transparency metrics** that will contribute to increasing access to medicines through the adoption and implementation of key norms.
Join us!

https://uaem.org/
http://www.equitablernd.org/
http://globalhealthgrades.org/

Thank you!
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