Building Entrepreneurship training into the co-curriculum activity for Biomedical Engineers-Biomedical Science Making an Impact on Society

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Abstract

Engineering and science principles are applied in hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic laboratories, pharmacies, medical device manufacturing, rehabilitations services and many other areas, and could bring more efficient solutions to these expenses. Hence, the 20th century argument in Canada that academic/Hospital institutions should steer away from contributing to applying knowledge from an entrepreneurial perspective vs being solely focused on research discovery is no longer as tenable as it once was, and in the 21st century those communities should be contributing to defining many facets of the unmet needs and enabling the technical solutions that form critical elements, but by no means the only elements, of business planning and execution for the start up medical technologies industry’s. This talk will focus on the global unmet need in health care and exemplify it with the presenter’s own personal experience as co-founder of Interface Biologics Inc and other start ups within a health science incubator that he co-founded (Health Innovation Hub). Within the context of academic innovation, the presentation will define attributes of a global thinking entrepreneur, and provide a description of programs that are working at getting new entrepreneurs ready for executing on changing health care. Lastly, the above will be contextualized with experiences from the presenter’s activity in programs that are bringing innovation to reality- thinking beyond the University experience.

Biography

J. Paul Santerre has published >185 peer reviewed publications and is a listed inventor on >60 patents in the area of medical polymers, biodegradation, protein and blood interactions with surfaces, surface modification, regenerative medicine, and drug delivery. He is co-founder and current co-director of the Health Innovation Hub at the University of Toronto (a student focused entrepreneur training co-curricular program with > 150 client health science and biomedical engineering start-up companies to date, whose companies generated $20Cdn in 2018-19). He is a co-founder of Interface Biologics and current CSO for the company. He received the Governor General’s award for Innovation and the Professional Engineers of Ontario Entrepreneurship Award in 2017. He holds the Baxter Chair for Health Technology & Commercialization. He was president of the 2016 World Biomaterials Congress held in Montreal, and was recognized for his community activity with the 2016 Community award from the Canadian Biomaterials, the 2018 President’s Impact Award from the Univ. of Toronto, and the 2018 US Society for Biomaterials Clemson Award for contributions to the literature.