



# Bridging between industry and academia for medical device innovation

Africa Health 2019

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# Overview

- Global Perspective
- Innovate...but at what cost?
- Partnerships to the rescue
- Enabling instruments
- Challenges
- Conclusion

# Disclaimer

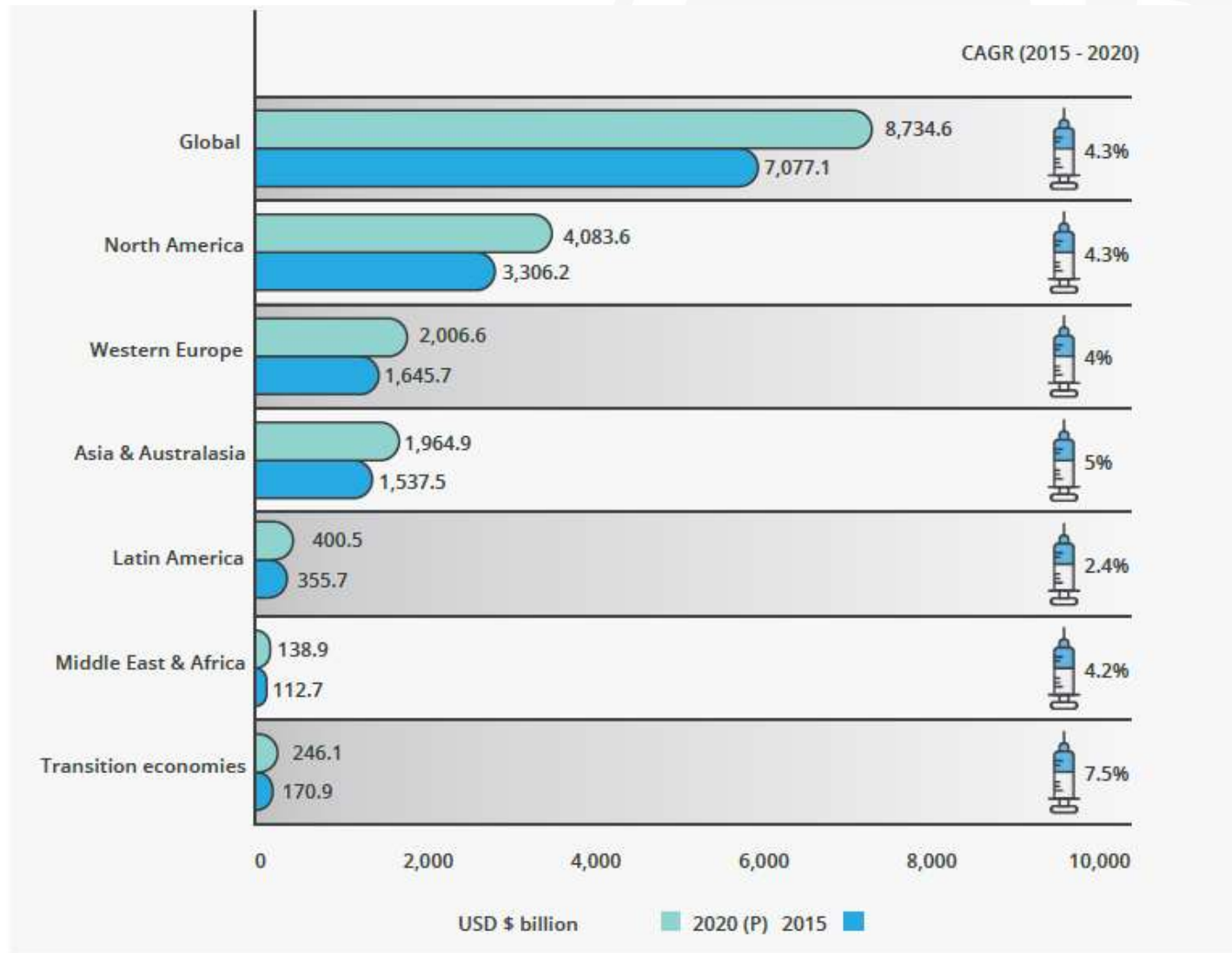
- My talk today is my opinion
- Continuous learning is critical
- Open to engaging and finding new ways

# Global Perspective

Setting the scene



# Global Spend on Health Care



Source: World Industry Outlook, Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, The Economic Intelligence Unit, June 2017

# Global Perspective

- Global health care spending is projected to increase [1]
- Global health care spend varies greatly [1]
- General life expectancy is expected to increase [1]

Yet, at the same time:

- Major issues facing health care industry: Need to improve financial performance and operating margins [1]
- Revenue pressure and rising costs for health systems [1]
- This trend is predicted to persist [1]



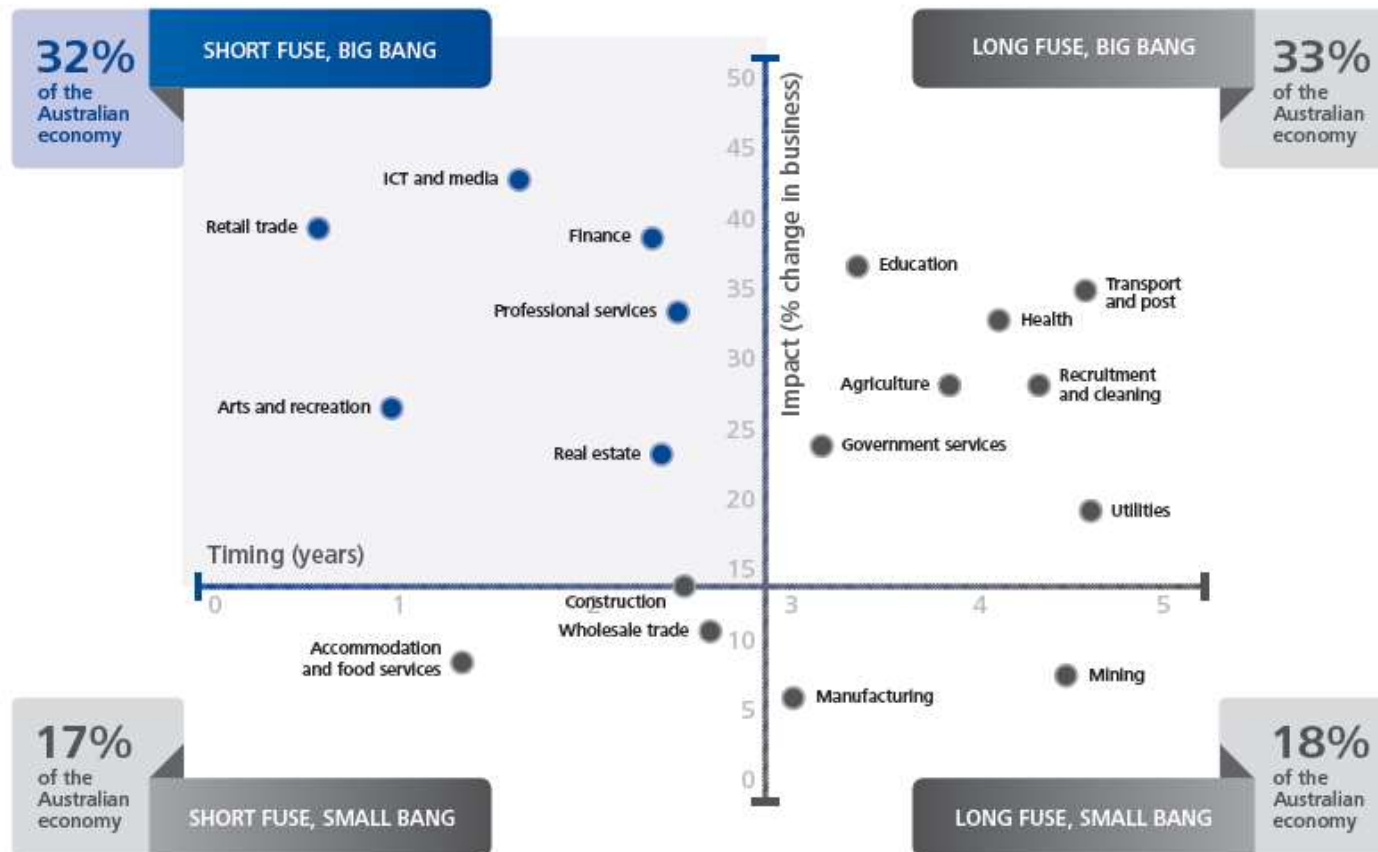
**SO WHAT?**

**Why is this important to know for  
today?**

# The fuse and the bang?

- Deloitte study on digital disruption in main industry sectors:
  - the projected magnitude of disruption in various industry sectors
  - the likely timeline of this disruption
  - practical advice to leaders on how to pull together the right strategic responses.
- Note: Not unpack drivers for disruptions today; only use the information towards my perspective.

# Deloitte's Digital Disruption Map



# Stay Relevant... Continuous Medical Device Innovation



# Innovation in Medical Devices?

- Organisations will need to innovate to stay relevant and competitive
- Important to realise that organisations will probably need to innovate in many aspects of their business
- Successful innovation is not necessarily money-expensive, but it is definitely time-expensive [2]
- It is very often difficult for organisations to innovate

# Strategic partnerships: Mechanism to ensure medical device innovation



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RESEARCH CONTRACTS  
& INNOVATION

# Uni-Industry Partnerships

- Universities can be excellent partners to the medical industry to enable continuous innovation
- Companies are absolutely vital to universities to enable R&D activities
- Big drive for knowledge economies – enabling environment for these partnerships
- Uni-Industry ecosystems are very much driving medical device innovation in the world – critical mass of researchers, business, inventions, skills, finances, etc.

# Universities-Industry Partnerships

- Industry ARE excellent partners to universities:
  - Identify problems to feed into R&D pipelines
  - Landing spot for graduates and researchers
  - Access to industry sites/infrastructure/assets
  - Nuanced operational knowledge of market
  - Industry networks
  - Knowledge of supply chains
  - Potential source of funding
  - Awareness of market needs
  - More?

# Universities-Industry Partnerships

- Universities could be excellent partners to industry:
  - R&D on variety of business problems
  - Source of talent and skills
  - Access to specialised expertise
  - Specialised clinical infrastructure
  - Global networks of experts
  - Knowledge of supply chains
  - Access to specialised funding instruments
  - Awareness of industry advancements
  - Technology transfer professionals to support process
  - More?

# Enabling Instruments



# Enabling Instruments

- Innovation or translational funding as critical enabler of innovation
- Funding easier to unlock via these partnerships
- Uni provides resources to access and manage such funding
- Typical funding opportunities through uni-industry partnership:
  - Grant funding or non-dilutive
  - Small: < R50K (small projects, short time)
  - Medium: R100k – R1m (medium)
  - Large: >R3m – R25m (multi-year projects)

# Enabling Instruments

- Innovation funding typically requires:
  - Feasible market opportunity
  - Strong innovation and commercialisation team
  - Realistic project plan or route to market strategy
  - Proper governance of technical development
  - Sound financial management including proper budgeting
- Universities and industry struggle to tick all the above boxes on their own

# Funding Instruments at UCT

- UCT PreSeed, Seed and Evergreen Fund
- DTI THRIP & SPII
- MRC SHIP
- DST TIA TDF and SF
- International grants: NIH, B&MG, Wellcome
- EU partnerships: Horizon2020 Program
- UK partnerships: InnovateUK and others
- AU opportunities
- BRICS opportunities
- More...

# Challenges



# Challenges or Inhibitors Faced

- Mismatch in time-lines
- Lack of appreciation for tasks in the different environments
- Management of the intellectual property created
- Sufficient funding

# Case Studies



# Conclusion



# Conclusion

- Difficult and changing global market – requires innovation
- Innovation is difficult and potentially expensive
- Need partners to navigate these troubled waters
- Funding opportunities as enabler of innovation and partnerships
- Both parties bring value to the table



# THANK YOU!

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# References

[1] 2018 Global health care outlook: The evolution of smart health care. Deloitte

[2] <https://medium.com/@prescouter/innovation-is-expensive-and-other-myths-58ba510a25c0>. 26 May 2019.