

Innovative Doctors in Oncology: Between Practice and Entrepreneurship

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Submitted: 11 February 2025 Accepted: 18 February 2025 Published: 25 February 2025

doi <https://doi.org/10.63620/MKJCMRRR.2025.1010>

Citation: Pr S Sakhri spse Boulhart (2025). Innovative Doctors in Oncology: Between Practice and Entrepreneurship. Journal of Comparative Medical Research Review Reports, 2(1), 01-02.

Abstract

Innovation in oncology does not rely solely on laboratory researchers or big pharma. Increasingly, physicians themselves are becoming agents of change, bringing innovative ideas from the bedside to the marketplace. This chapter explores the journeys of these “physician-innovators,” their motivations, successes, and the obstacles they face.

“Innovation in medicine requires patience and long-term vision. But seeing a patient benefit from a technology we have developed is an inestimable reward.”

Keys to Success for An Innovative Doctor

Collaboration with technology experts No doctor can innovate alone. Establishing partnerships with engineers and researchers is essential.

Access to Financing

Developing a medical innovation is expensive. Between clinical trials and regulatory validation, it is crucial to surround yourself with investors or obtain subsidies.

Scientific and Regulatory Validation

Unlike other sectors, medicine requires rigorous validation steps before an innovation is placed on the market.

Managing Conflicts of Interest

Being a doctor and an entrepreneur is not always well perceived. You need to know how to communicate transparently about your activities to avoid any suspicion of commercial interests.

Challenges and Obstacles - Lack of Time

Between clinical practice and research, it is difficult to dedicate time to entrepreneurship.

Administrative Burdens

Clinical trials and regulatory approval are long and complex processes.

Financial Risks

Not all projects find investors and some innovators must self-finance their approach at the beginning.

Ethical Challenges

The introduction of new technology in medicine raises questions about its accessibility, cost and impact on the doctor-patient relationship.

Collaboration with Industry and Research Institutes

Partnerships with the pharmaceutical industry, biotechnology and research institutes are essential to transform an idea into a viable solution. Some collaboration models include.

Technology Licenses

The doctor-inventor transfers his intellectual property rights to a company which takes care of development and marketing.

Co-Development

Medical start-ups work closely with hospitals to validate innovations in real conditions.

Academic Spin-Offs

Universities support the creation of start-ups founded by physician-researchers, by facilitating access to laboratories and helping to raise funds.

Financing Medical Innovations Financing

Is one of the biggest challenges for a physician-innovator. Several options exist

Public Subsidies

Organizations such as The European Union funds research and innovation projects.

Private Investors

Specialized healthcare venture capital funds invest in promising medical start-ups.

Medical Crowdfunding

Some platforms allow you to raise funds directly from the general public or other doctors.

Partnerships Industrialists

Some companies fund the development of innovations in exchange for commercial exclusivity on the technology.

Regulation and Authorization of Medical Devices

Any innovation in oncology must go through strict regulation before being put on the market. The main steps are:

Preclinical Validation

Laboratory and animal model tests to prove the efficacy and safety of the device.

Clinical Trials

Studies on volunteer patients to demonstrate therapeutic benefits.

Approval

Obtaining the necessary certifications such as CE marking in Europe or FDA approval in the United States.

Post-Marketing Surveillance

Monitoring of side effects and continuous device improvements. Impact of Innovations on Patients Innovations in oncology are radically transforming patient care, improving not only their life expectancy but also their quality of life.

Increased Treatment Precision

Targeted therapies and adaptive radiotherapy allow tumors to be attacked more effectively while reducing side effects.

Earlier, Less Invasive Diagnosis

Liquid biopsy and AI-assisted imaging offer faster and more accurate ways to detect cancers at an early stage.

Expanded Access to Care

Digital platforms and telemedicine enable patients, even in remote areas, to benefit from medical advances.

Better Personalization of Treatments

Advances in genomics and artificial intelligence make it possible to design treatments adapted to the genetic profile of each patient, thus increasing the chances of success.

Patient Empowerment

Through connected devices and monitoring applications, patients can better understand and manage their disease, promoting more proactive care.

Recent Technological Innovations in Oncology 6 Innovation in cancer research is experiencing unprecedented acceleration thanks to technological advances. Here are some of the most recent advances:

- Messenger RNA (mRNA)-based therapies
- Liquid biopsy diagnosis
- Robot-assisted surgery and augmented reality
- Artificial intelligence and medical imaging
- New generations of CAR-T cells
- Smart medical implants and devices
- Advances in adaptive radiotherapy

Conclusion Physician Innovators

are essential to advancing cancer care. By combining clinical expertise, entrepreneurial vision and the ability to collaborate with industry, they are able to transform ideas into real-world solutions for patients. This path is demanding, but it paves the way for more effective and personalized oncology. Those who dare to take the plunge become the pioneers of tomorrow's medicine.

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