

Innovation in Dentistry: some comments from Easy2fix.

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Countries development is strongly associated with scientific knowledge, technology and innovation. However, from our professional perspective is not always easy to see the social impact of our scientific work.

Using innovation strategically as the central axis of scientific and technological development would allow us to improve the quality of life of our population. In this sense, we have begun to replicate models, such as triple-helix,¹ in order to promote cooperative relationships between government, industry, and academy in our country. These models will catalyse the incorporation of technologies into the market, through the creation of spin-offs and incubators.

Thus, we can find academic researchers turned entrepreneurs of their own technologies and entrepreneurs working in research laboratories, all of them supported by the state. However, there is no evidence of the viability of this model in an economically developing country such as ours. An additional barrier in dentistry is the lack of a national dental industry. Moreover, only 1% of Chilean university research is likely to reach the market.

From my experience as a clinical scientist in the adverse conditions mentioned above, I would like to highlight two key aspects. These was not only important to be part of the 1% that has reached the market, but also to improve the quality of life of the people who need us,² which has always been our true *leitmotiv* in the Easy2fix development.

The first aspect is to carry out simple and quick research prototypes, and then proceed to experimental designs for prototype validation. Thus, we can raise information to determine if our proposal has a real effect on what we want to solve (*ie.* the end users), and if it is scalable for the market. The second and probably the most relevant aspect is to create work teams capable of facing these challenges with creativity and perseverance. Furthermore, work teams must understand that if they go beyond what is known, they will inevitably find spontaneous barriers from the establishment.

By creating meeting spaces that facilitate exchange, inspiration and unconventional thinking, we will have the bases for innovation. There is no greater secret than the passion for what we do and enjoy this voyage of discovery, serving a greater purpose than ourselves.

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