

Abstract

Innovations at the intersection of medicine, engineering, biotechnology, physical sciences and information technology are creating new paths for research and development, commercialization and technology transfer. Basic research in nanotechnology and nanomedicine is rapidly producing commercially viable products with applications in drug discovery and delivery, diagnostics, detection, sensing, imaging, devices etc. Commercial nanomedicine is at a nascent stage facing unique challenges in addition to many hurdles. After the last years of exploratory R&D in nanomedicine, it finally enters translation and clinical validation. This combined with the potential market value of nanomedicine have lead to an increasing number of spin-off companies. These spin-offs have been created in order to commercialize research results from Universities & Research Institutes (URI). Actors in nanomedicine field in Europe involve several big and medium sized companies, corporate and academic spin-offs as well as Universities and Research Institutes (URI) across various European countries that have contributed greatly to the growth of what is widely recognised to be a commercial prospect with immense potential. In this work scientific, economic and societal drivers for nanomedicine initiatives are explored. Furthermore we identified and studied the academic spin-offs that have been created to exploit results in nanomedicine from European URI.

Key words: nanomedicine, commercialization, academic entrepreneurship