

Welcome to the First MOVE Workshop on “R&D and Technology Transfer”

We are very happy and proud to have gathered an excellent group of researchers. We feel it is a good combination of junior and senior researchers, presenting theoretical and empirical studies. We will also have the opportunity to discuss, provide and receive ideas from public officials, venture capitalists and managers in a round table this afternoon. And we are very happy that the participants in the workshop include not only researchers in this area and a good number of graduate students eager to learn and looking for ideas, but also some project managers in research institutes in Barcelona and a few other professionals working in institutions supporting and practicing innovation. I would like to welcome all of you.

This is the first workshop of the recently born MOVE, a new research institute based in Bellaterra in the field of Economics whose main aim is to conduct high quality research in several areas. We start concentrating our efforts in Mechanism Design, Quantitative Economics and the Economics of Science and Innovation. Concerning the area of Economics of Science and Innovation, our group is still small but we have the ambition to achieve a leap forward to higher excellence in several dimensions.

First, and most important, we intend to improve the quality and quantity of our research output. This implies in particular that we want to concentrate our research on these issues and that we are actively looking for new researchers. We will be present in the job market. We are opened to junior but also possibly to more senior researchers in this area. Please, tell your best graduate students that we are hiring and of course we will be happy to seriously consider more senior people.

Second, we are opening new educational programs in Economics of Science and Innovation. This year, we host the third generation of MESI (Master in Economics of Science and Innovation), a master program in the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics that Salvador and I direct. Our aim is to equip the students with the tools that the challenging jobs that managing innovation and technology transfer requires. And indeed, we are happy to see that the graduates in the first two cohorts found very interesting jobs related to innovation. In fact, we have some MESI graduates among us today. Also here, we would be grateful if you would disseminate the information concerning the master to your undergrad students.

Finally, we are trying to increase the interaction and the forum of discussion with scientists from other scientific disciplines, both for research purposes and also in educational programs. And we are trying to generate synergies with professionals working on innovation: managers in research institutes, TTOs and scientific parks, officials in public organizations, venture capitalists, spin-out managers, etc. This workshop also tries to be one step in this direction. We are very happy and thankful from the reaction of many people outside the Economics academic community to our first initiatives.

After this small publicity (we are starting, we need it!), let me again welcome and thank you, in particular the speakers, for your participation.

And we can start with our first speaker, Suzanne Scotchmer, who will talk about “Scarcity of Ideas and R&D Options: Use it, Lose it, or Bank it”.