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June 25, 2024

## Resilience in Academia: A Challenging Gap

Approved for Public Release

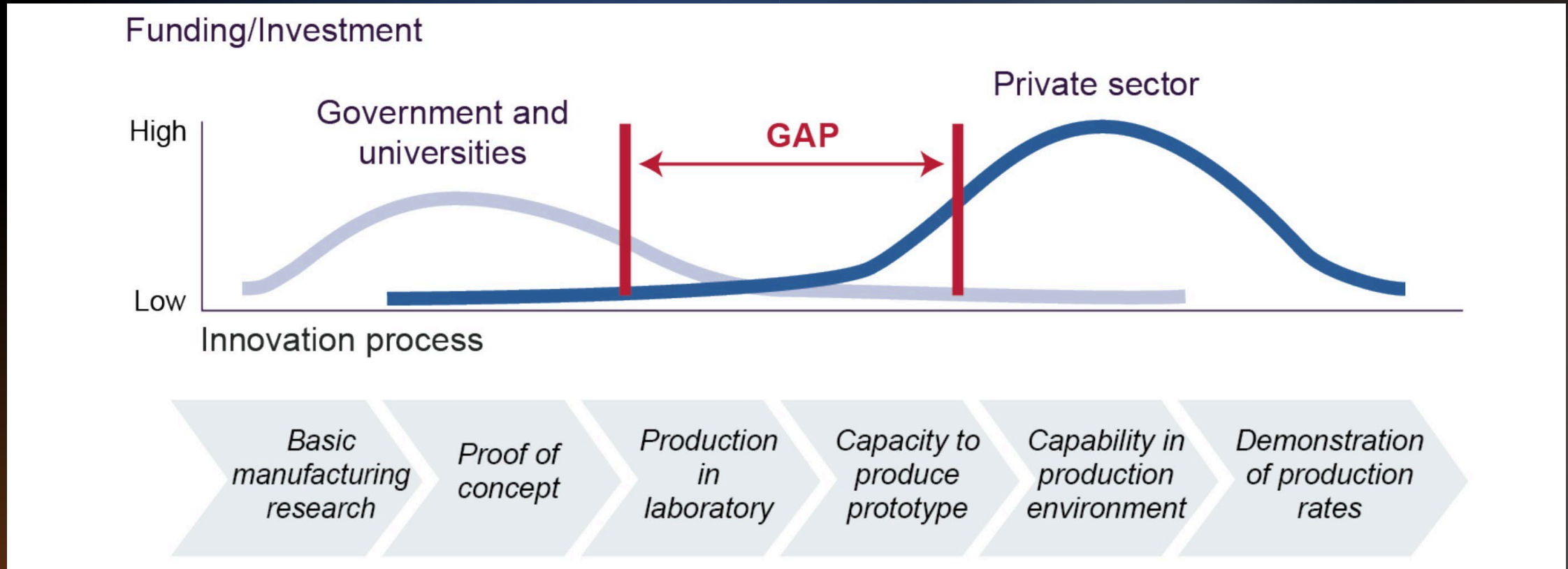




# What Government and Industry Get from Academia\*

- **Accessing the frontier of knowledge:** Academics are at the forefront of their fields and their insights can provide fresh perspectives on hard science problems.
- **Leveraging innovative methods:** From data collection to analysis, academics may have access to new technologies and outside the box approaches.
- **Alternative Perspectives:** Collaboration between academia, industry and government can lead to discoveries that advance both knowledge and practice, sometimes in unexpected directions.
- **Developing human capital:** Academia produces the next generation of STEM workforce. You get tomorrow what you fund today.
- **Enhancing credibility:** By incorporating research and external expertise, policy decisions gain legitimacy and trust, and align with evidence-based policy guidelines.

# The Valley of Death: Biggest Challenge to Resilience in Academia



*An entrepreneur without funding is a musician without an instrument.*

Robert A. Rice Jr., author of "MMO Evolution"

# Resilience Challenges for Academia

- **Working with Siloed Organizations:** Government agencies often operate independently from one another, each with their own, budget, authorizations, set of responsibilities and goals. Each Agency has its own balance between exploitative and exploratory innovations as well, but often has overlaps with other Agencies.
- **Low risk tolerance:** Government agencies are often more risk averse than private sector companies due to fears associated public opinion and loss of trust when things fail. This often leads to organizations focusing more on making existing processes more efficient rather than trying new things. Industry wants a return on investment with low risk.
- **Preparing for Crisis:** Responding to a crisis is not in the academic vocabulary. Throwing money at the problem may be too little too late, especially in an urgent biothreat scenario. Hiring an academic researcher often takes months, so surging for a crisis is often not an option.
- **Supply Chain:** Feedstocks and precursors for academic research often come from international sources. Supply chain interruption has immediate impact.
- **Security Challenges:** American citizens are not pursuing the hard STEM career fields. We have an inverted pyramid of students from foreign countries, some that could even be potential adversaries.

# The Winston Salem RegenMed Hub

- An ecosystem poised for exponential growth
- Contains world-class leaders developing innovative technologies
- A community of like-minded organizations focused on growth provides resilience in crisis
- An Innovation Accelerator and Test Bed with over 30 companies providing the latest technology for prototyping, optimization, and biomanufacturing to enable faster regulatory approval and commercialization of new regenerative medicine products and technologies.



# Thank You!

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Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFIRM)

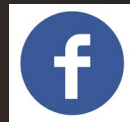


- ❖ <https://school.wakehealth.edu/research/institutes-and-centers/wake-forest-institute-for-regenerative-medicine>
- ❖ <http://remdo.org/>



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