



Doha, Qatar
**The International School
on Research Impact Assessment**

"Learning to assess research with
the aim to optimise returns"

MEASURING R&D IMPACT: BETWEEN REALITY AND EXPECTATIONS

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WHAT IS RESEARCH IMPACT?

- The Oxford English Dictionary defines impact as 'Marked effect or influence'
- The RCUK defines Research Impact as 'the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy'.
- NSF distinguish two impacts in its merit review of proposals:
 - Academic impact or the intellectual contribution to one's field of study.
 - 'external socio-economic or broader impact which encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

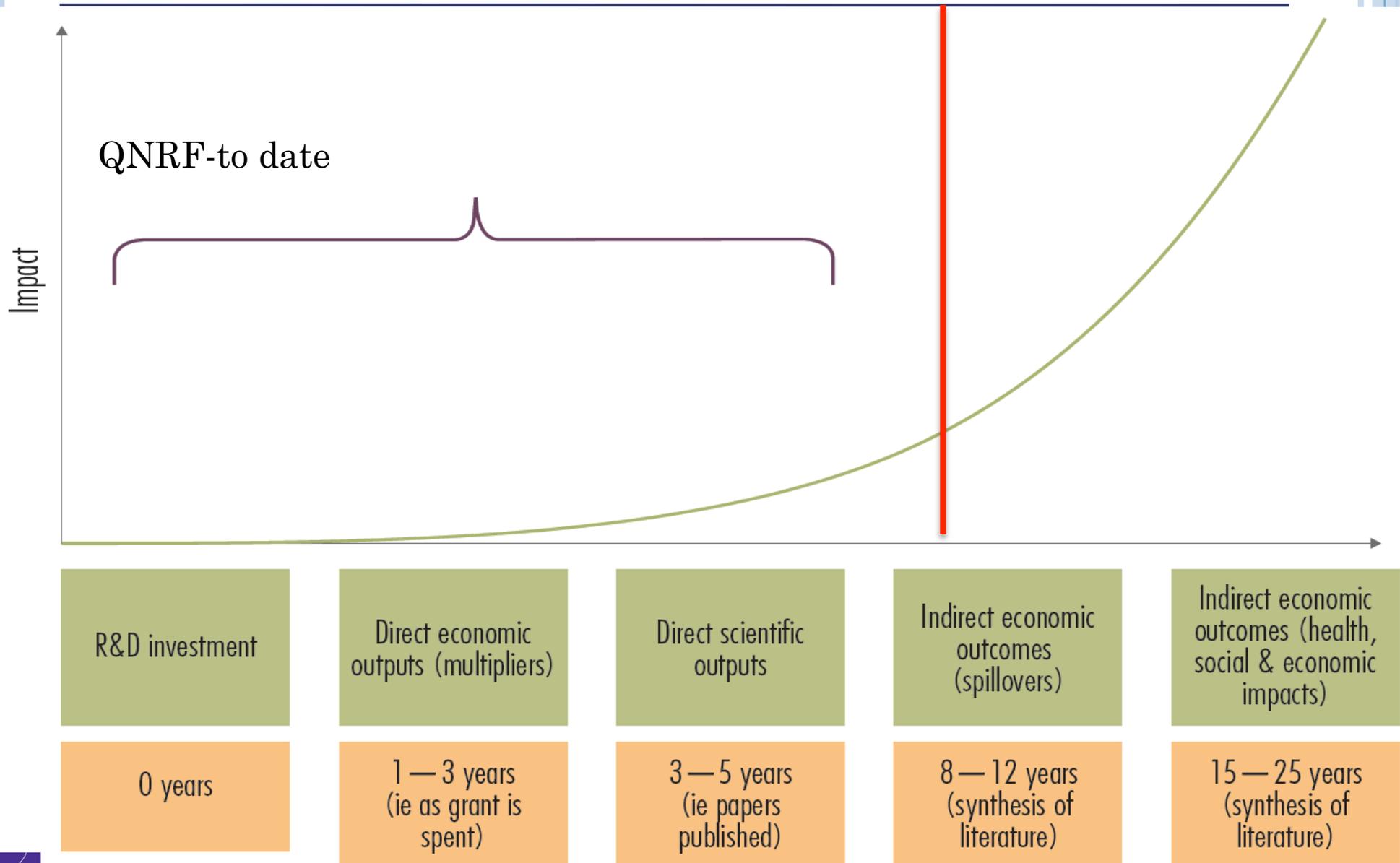


CHALLENGES

- **AMBIGUITY OF DEFINITION**
- **MULTITUDE OF VARIABLES**
- **TIME FOR FEELING VARIOUS IMPACTS VARIES**
- **EXPECTATIONS VARY DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU STAND**



QATAR'S RESEARCH START-UP PHASE AND PATHWAY TO "IMPACT"



Expectations

Nation level -R&D Strategy

Enterprise level -R&D Policies

Institution level -Operational

Researcher level -Implementer

Impact

Reality



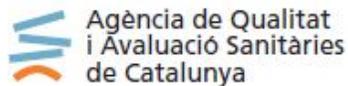
The Panelists





Dr. Paula Adam

Dr. Paula Adam is responsible for Research Assessment at the Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia (AQuAS). She has been leading the ISOR Group which carries on studies on the impact of health sciences research in Spain. Currently, she works on the assessment of the impact of the Catalan greatest charity, circa 100 Million Euros in the course of 20 editions. She is also involved in the research characterisation and assessment of the scientific activities performed in the top-quality Health Research Institutes of Spain.



Prof. Ibrahim Janahi

Professor of clinical Pediatrics Weill–Cornell Medical College – Qatar and Sr. Consultant and chief, Pediatric Pulmonology Division (Hamad Medical Corporation and Sidra), Executive Director of research- HMC, Designated Institutional Officer (DIO) – Sidra Medical and Research Center, Program director, Arab board residency in pediatrics (HMC) , Chairman, National Permanent Licensing Committee (PLC). Prof. Janahi works on Genotype/Phenotype relationship in Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD), Personalized medicine, gene modification Molecular basis of the relationship between asthma and obesity (genomic-proteomic-metabolomics relationships). A variety of clinical and administrative leadership positions at institutional, country, regional and international levels.



Prof. Jonathan Grant

Director of the Policy Institute at King's College London. His main research interests are on R&D policy and the use of research and evidence in policy and decision making. Jonathan has significant international experience providing analytical support on the formulation and implementation of R&D strategies in the UK, Greece, Norway, Qatar, Oman, Australia, Canada and the USA. He was President of RAND Europe between June 2006 and October 2012. where he oversaw the doubling of RAND Europe's activity, the founding of a successful office in Brussels, and the establishment of the Cambridge Centre for Health Services Research. He recently co-authored a book, 'The Drugs Don't Work', serialized by The Sunday Times and featured in the New Statesman and The Scotsman.



Dr. Erik Stenehjem

Executive Director of IP and technology transfer office that serves Research & Development entities working under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation. He is responsible for building the infrastructure and the capacity to identify and protect new inventions and to help transform them into innovations through commercialization for the benefit of Qatar, the region and the global community. He was the Director of Industrial Partnerships at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. His task there was to significantly improve the translation speed at which new inventions were transformed into new market ready innovations. In short, his job was to accelerate IP capture and commercialization He left this position after 6 years, having achieved a 78% increase in IP revenues for the Laboratory.



I want to focus on how the expectations we bring to our work as scientists researchers are often at cross purposes with the realities that surround and shape the context for our work.

Our discussion this afternoon with an esteemed panel is to try to reshape our understanding on the gap between the expected impact and the real measured impact on R&D investment.

This discussion nevertheless holds extra significance for nascent or emerging R&D eco-systems like the one in Qatar. Parties such as strategic planners, funders, implementers, service providers hold a central place in the nation's science and technology enterprise and should be in the best position to begin the process of matching expectations to reality.

When we speak of science and technology generally, nowhere are our expectations and realities more completely opposed. Such balance is very difficult to reach especially when we weigh opportunities for cutting-edge research against the available resources.



So how can we turn to ways that we can bring our expectations into better alignment with reality?

May be solutions such as below are worth to be investigated:

- Align towards a common understanding of impact. (all parties have to agree as to what do we want to achieve) .
- reach out across fields, across sectors of society.
- adopt more global perspectives.
- and generally exercise greater leadership in our increasingly technology-driven society.

