



Stanford eCorner

Innovating Health Sciences to Reduce Cost

Susan Desmond-Hellmann, *UCSF*

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UCSF Chancellor Susan Desmond-Hellmann is interested in bringing together the brightest minds from many fields to find ways to reduce costs in the health sciences through innovation. She describes a pioneering degree program at UCSF that seeks to build these connections between experts to examine possibilities. In this area, Desmond-Hellmann looks to the success of other high-technology sectors in bringing new product iterations to market, while also improving reliability and reducing costs.



Transcript

The other big idea that we've implemented at UCSF and is in its very early stages is the degree granting program called an MTM, a Masters of Translational Medicine. And this is a program designed to bring together life sciences experts, physicians, and scientists with engineers, computational experts, bio-informatics experts to see if there are ways of bringing these two discipline areas together, that we can increase the likelihood of success. Increase the reliability and predictability of what we do in medicine. And ultimately, what I would love to see is could we innovate in life sciences to bring down costs. So as I watch the high-tech industry and I'm a consumer of high-tech products. Every time I buy a new iPod, it's better and cheaper. Every time someone comes to my hospital for a new X-ray, it's better. It's not cheaper. So, what would it look like in life sciences that as we iterate each subsequent generation of product it's less expensive and more reliable. And if we don't accept that challenge, we'll price ourselves out of business in the health sciences area and maybe already are.

But what would it take to innovate in product development, in delivery, and in how we think about health and wellness that could really change the game? And I think by putting the brightest minds together, it gives me some confidence so that's where we'll end up in by the future.