Commercialization pathways in academia: From paper-napkin designs to saving lives.

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Abstract:  
In addition to his successful academic career, Dr. Athanasiou is a prolific entrepreneur. He is the founder of numerous start-up companies based on his research activities, one of which, OsteoBiologics, Inc., was bought in 2006 by Smith & Nephew. Another one, Vidacare Corp., was recently awarded the Wall Street Journal's Gold award in its annual Innovation Awards competition for one of its products, invented by Kyriacos and his team.

This year the American Society of Mechanical Engineers is awarding him the Thomas A. Edison Patent Award for the significant contribution of his innovations to health. Dr. Athanasiou's presentation will concentrate on how his academic work has led to the formation of new companies. He will describe many "lessons" he has learned in the process and he will try to portray the entrepreneurial world from an academic's perspective.