

PREFACE

RELEASING THE GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2019: CREATING HEALTHY LIVES—THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL INNOVATION



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We are pleased to present the 12th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII). The special theme for this edition is *Creating Healthy Lives—The Future of Medical Innovation*.

Over the last two centuries, improvements in healthcare have prompted a sustained increase in life expectancy and in the quality of life, resulting in substantial contributions to economic growth. Medical innovation has largely contributed to this progress.

As we look into the future, new technologies and non-technological innovations will likely continue to enrich the provision of healthcare at a rapid pace. Artificial intelligence, genomics, stem cell research, big data, and mobile health applications will open doors to improved health. Likewise, novelties such as the delivery of medicines via drones have potential for rural and low-resource contexts in developing countries.

Focusing on the next two decades, the *GII 2019* will shed light on the role of medical innovation as it shapes the future of healthcare. The insights shared within the report show that we have an exciting opportunity ahead of us. In addition to the theme, and as every year, the *GII* report analyzes global innovation trends and the performance of approximately 130 economies.

For more than a decade, the *GII* has fostered national innovation strategies and international debates on innovation in three main

ways. First, the *GII* helps place innovation firmly on the map for countries, in particular for low- and middle-income economies. Second, the *GII* allows countries to assess the relative performance of their national innovation system. A significant number of countries work hard to “unpack their *GII* innovation ranking” and to analyze their innovation strengths and weaknesses. These findings then inform innovation policies and actions. Third, the *GII* provides a strong impetus for countries to collect fitting innovation metrics.

With this in mind, however, the *GII* is only as good as its data ingredients. The current state of innovation metrics is improving. Yet, despite this progress, the figures available to assess innovation outputs and impacts—a topic of critical importance—remain poor. Similarly, sound metrics on key components of innovation systems, such as the state of entrepreneurship, the availability of venture capital, the nature of innovation linkages, or the degree to which innovations are successfully commercialized, are lacking.

To improve the state of innovation metrics, the *GII* will continue to be a laboratory for measuring and analyzing emerging innovation data. Trial and error will be required to provide the most accurate assessment of perpetually changing innovation contexts. We appreciate the feedback we continue to receive from innovation experts and decision-makers, whose insights contribute to how we refine the *GII* methodology.

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