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The Heterogeneity of the Academic Profession : The Effect of Occupational Variables on University Scientists' Participation in Research Commercialization / Adam Novotny

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Abstract

Do academics who commercialize their inventions have a different professional character than those who do not? The author conducted a nationwide survey in Hungary including 1,562 academics of hard sciences from 14 universities. According to the cluster analysis based on their participation in research commercialization (RC), university scholars can be divided into three distinct groups: 'traditional faculty' (56%), 'market-oriented faculty' (22%), and 'academic entrepreneurs' (22%). Traditional faculty members typically do not participate in RC, while, within the framework of the university, market-oriented academics are engaged in RC the most frequently. Academic entrepreneurs, in addition to their university positions, work for spin-off firms that commercialize research findings. Multinomial logistic regressions revealed that university scientists in various engineering fields, and especially in chemical technology, as well as in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals have a considerably greater potential to engage in RC, similar to scholars with industry work experience, high number of publications, and professorial rank. Discipline, work experience,

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scientific performance, and academic rank seem to outweigh the effect of the university and its location on RC behavior. These findings underscore the inherent diversity of the academic profession and question the necessity of implementing uniform RC policies such as the Bayh–Dole model across universities, disciplines, and segments of university scientists. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)