# It's time to change! Leveraging External Knowledge

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# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Innovation Strategy

**Old Paradigm** 

Linear relationship between subject matter expertise and innovation capability

**New Paradigm** 

Non-linear – Discontinuity between knowledge expansion and innovation success



# Business goals haven't changed . . .

- Return to Investors
- Profit
- Revenue growth
  - Maintaining core competencies
  - Gaining competitive advantage
  - Retaining talent
  - Etc.



It always has been, and always will be, about finding the net



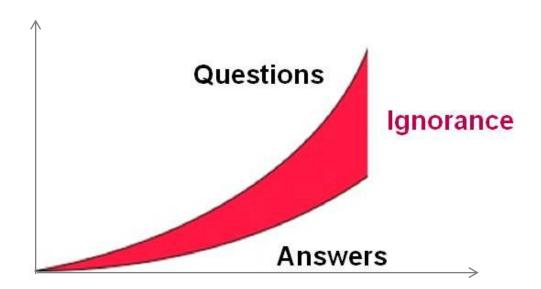
# ... but business realities have!

- Complete transparency
- Disruptive technologies
- Shifting consumer behaviors
- Business model innovations
- Growing sustainability dimension
- Ubiquitous knowledge



#### We live in a different world

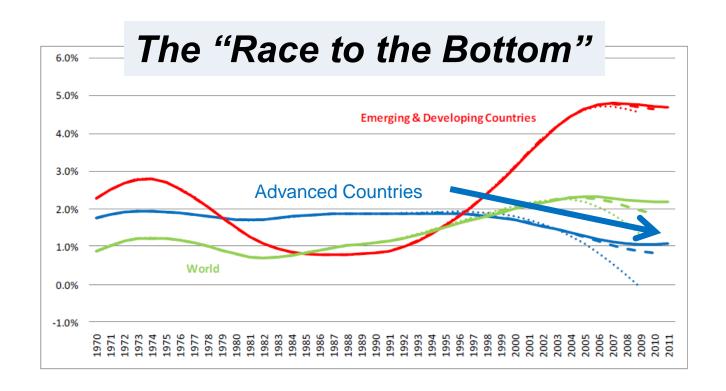
Knowledge is growing exponentially...but so is our "ignorance"





# And, while world is changing, . . .

... even the most innovative companies are reaching the limits of productivity improvement



Source: The Conference Board Total Economy Database, January 2011 http://www.conference-board.org/pdf free/economics/TED.pdf

#### You are not alone . . .

Every global company faces a similar set of challenges:

- Understanding and anticipating the needs of more demanding and knowledgeable customers and consumers
- Finding, hiring, and retaining the right talent (not just "the best" talent)
- Integrating knowledge and expertise from crossspecialty internal teams
- Tapping into and leveraging external global knowledge in a timely and efficient way

# But, have we heard this before?

"We've moved into a new, era where innovation and expertise extend beyond the corporate R&D center.

Open Innovation is the key to solving today's innovation challenges . . . "



# So, why hasn't it worked?



 You cannot win the lottery more than once (if ever!)



• Throwing more darts is not going to help (You cannot boil the ocean before running out of time, money and patience)



 It's not a job for some, but a skill for everybody!



# An alternative approach

# Two essential ingredients:

Leverage

People generally accept the premise that success is tied to effectively leveraging external knowledge, resources, and solutions

**Focus** 

But, to make it work, companies must focus limited resources to deliver predictable and repeatable outcomes



# An alternative approach

One outcome of a systematic approach, is to achieve greater **focus** at each stage of the innovation process

## **Right Target**

– Do we understand the most important sources of customer value?

# **Right Altitude**

– Should we address this problem at the system level, component, or sub-stem level?

# **Right Problem**

– Do we understand what is the problem we are really trying to solve?

# **Right Solution**

– Do we understand where to look to find enabling technologies and/or leverage existing solutions?



#### **EXAMPLE: Water Heater**

# Business Objective: Gain market share by decreasing boiling time from 1'15" to 50"



#### **Conventional Approach**

- Leverage expertise in water heaters, e.g.,
  - Make heater bigger
  - Put more power
  - Use noble metals
- Leverage marketing expertise
  - Hire movie stars to promote existing product
  - Commission a study proving that boiling water for more than 1' good for your health
- Work harder.....



#### **EXAMPLE: Water Heater**

# Business Objective: Gain market share by decreasing boiling time from 1'15" to 50"



#### **Alternative Approach**

#### √ Right Target

- Improve convenience?
- Reduce cost?
- Shorten boiling time?

#### √ Right Altitude

- Device and cup?
- Device shape/size?
- Wires, coating?

#### √ Right Problem

- To increase thermoconductivity
- To to remove bubbles
- To create gradient of temperature?

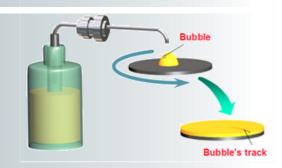
#### **✓** Right Solution

Outcome: boiling time was reduced to 40"!



# **EXAMPLE: Chip Manufacturing**

- The firm: A major computer chip manufacturer
- The issue: A photoresist polymer bubbles when applied to the wafer; losses amount to \$1M/day



- Conventional approach: Looked at every possible cause using a common "manufacturing language;" tried to translate knowledge from solving problems in similar processes toward the issue
- Result: Their best "translators" (manufacturing engineers) could not find the source



# **EXAMPLE: Chip Manufacturing**

- Conventional approach 2: tried to "translate" the knowledge of the best polymer scientists into new practice
- Proposal of polymers researchers
  - Timing: 2 years
  - Research Fees: \$3 million
- But the ferocity of the competition and the relentless demand to be "better and faster" did not make this a viable option.



# Reformulation into a Function-Based Language

- Translation: from an object-based language (polymer science) to a function-based language.
- Reformulated problem statement: the issue is with a gas; our goal is to eliminate gas from a liquid



Question: Who knows how to deal with gas in a liquid?









Carbonated beverage industries

Blood transfusion experts

Scuba diving experts

Champagne producers

■ There is an extensive body of knowledge; our goal is to *translate it to chip production* 



#### So how did we solve it?

High-level Specific problem: How problem: can we prevent Bubbling in a unexpected thin film batch losses in polymer layer. our chip A polymer manufacturing problem? process? **Function Oriented** Generalized The solution was Search: Function: Gas found in the Managing gas in in a liquid Champagne a liquid; bubbles industry

# It's not about Art, but about Applied Science

	Tool/Concept	Elaboration
Right Target	Voice of the Product	Analyze the system to uncover unexploited new sources of customer value
	Development Potential	<ul> <li>Do not invest heavily in performance improvement if a technology is at or near its theoretical limit; Apply mathematical modeling to assess potential</li> </ul>
Right Altitude/ Right Problem	Cause-effect Chains	<ul> <li>Systematically portray cause and effect relationships within a system to search for deeply embedded root cause problems to solve</li> </ul>
	Function Analysis	Model a system in terms of its functional interactions to uncover new insights for problem solving and to build a roadmap for external search
Right Solution	Technology Trends	<ul> <li>Anticipate how a technology will evolve based on objective trends; focus innovation efforts as far forward as possible into the future</li> </ul>
	Function- oriented Search	Use general functions to guide external search for enabling technologies and solutions that have been applied to functionally-similar challenges

# Today's session will focus on Voice of the Product



#### - Innovate only against Main Parameters of Value

# **Voice of the Customer** What customers ask for Articulated wants, needs, use occasions

- Qualitative interviews
- Quantitative market research
- Ethnography
- Conjoint analysis
- etc



#### - Innovate only against Main Parameters of Value



"A lot of times, people don't know what they want until you show it to them."

Steve Jobs

#### - Innovate only against Main Parameters of Value

#### **Voice of the Customer**

What customers ask for

#### **Voice of the Product**

What customers don't know to ask for

Articulated wants, needs, use occasions



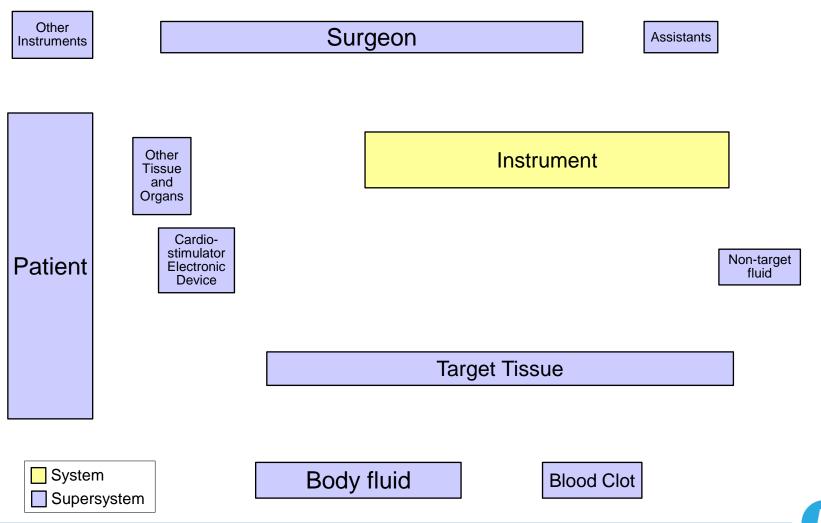
Unexploited sources of value (unused resources or functions)





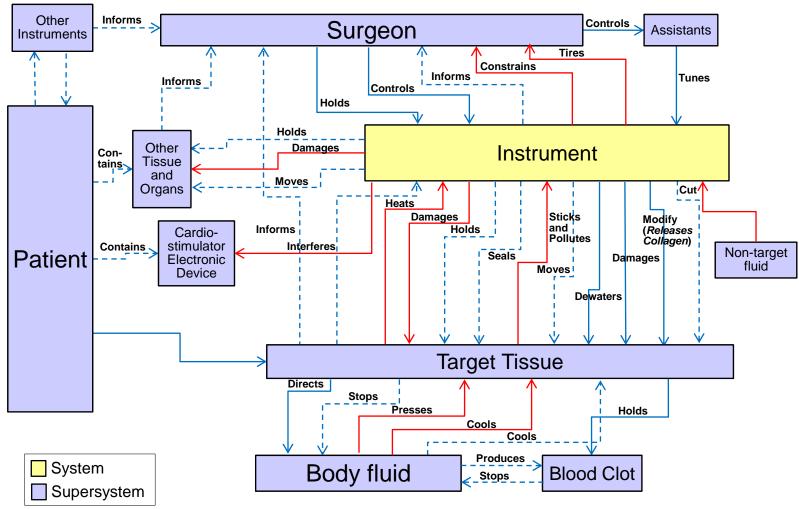
#### - Finding new sources of customer value

1. What elements of the supersystem should define the opportunity space?



#### - Finding new sources of customer value

#### 2. What are the functional interactions among these components?





#### - Finding new sources of customer value

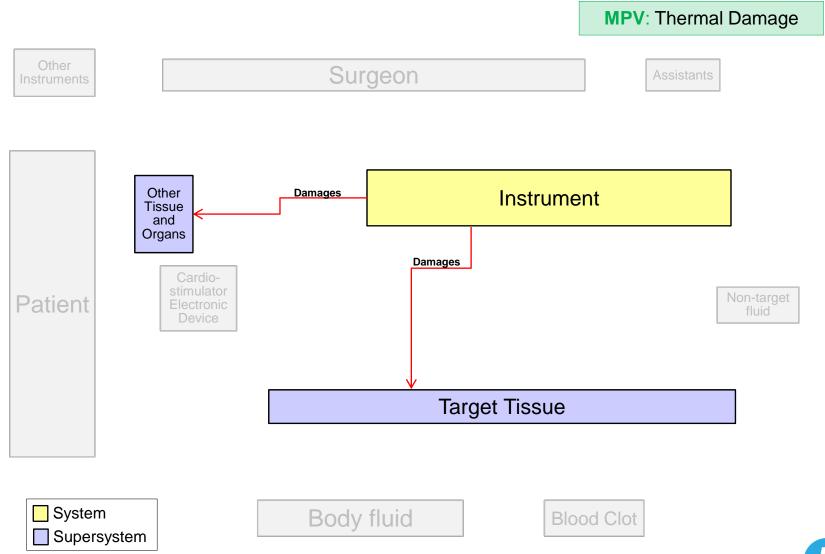
# What are the MPV's?

- Quality of procedure
- Speed
- Safety
- Thermal damage
- Ease of use/ergonomics



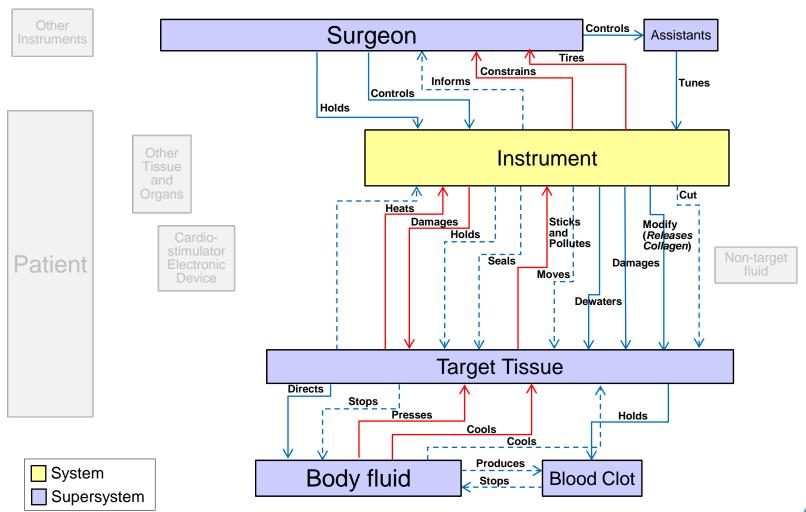


#### - Finding new sources of customer value

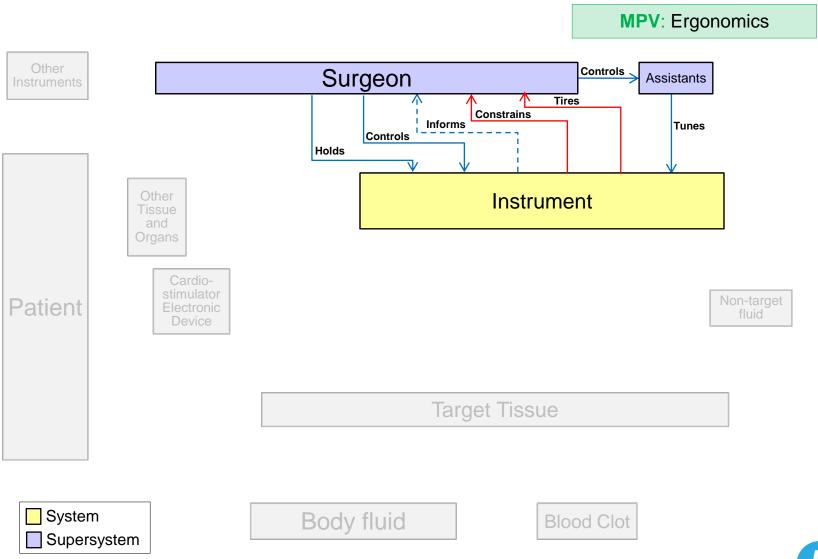


#### - Finding new sources of customer value

MPV: Quality of Procedure

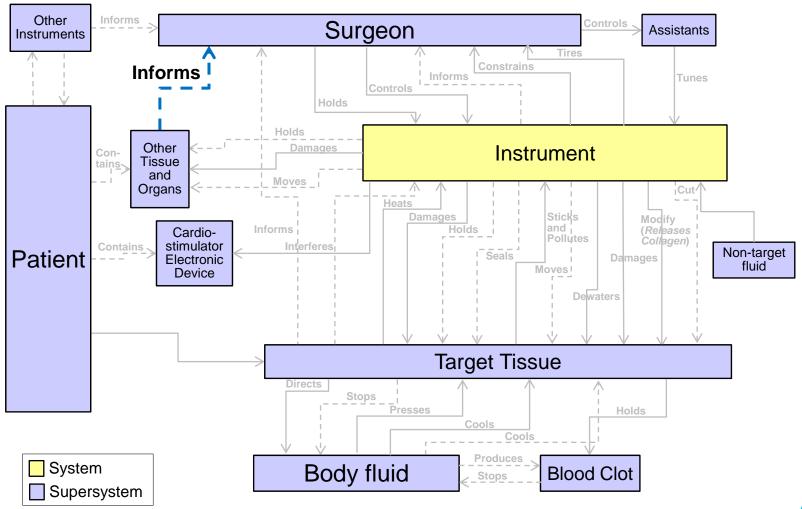


#### - Finding new sources of customer value



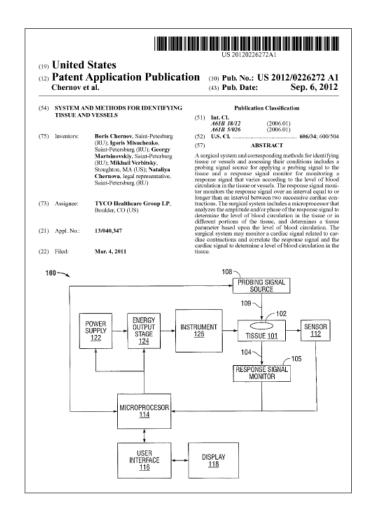
#### - Finding new sources of customer value

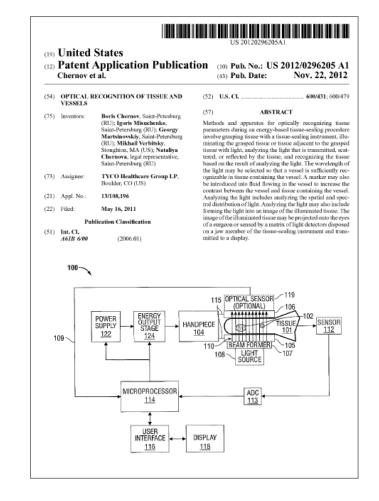
Latent MPV: Tissue Recognition?



#### - Finding new sources of customer value

#### **Latent MPV**: Tissue Recognition?







#### Innovator's Manifesto

# **Right Target**

"A lot of times, people don't know what they want until you show it to them." — Steve Jobs

"Every object tells a story...if you can read it." — Henry Ford

#### **Right Altitude**

"It's so much easier to suggest solutions when you don't know too much about the problem." — Malcomb Forbes

#### **Right Problem**

"If I had an hour to solve a problem I'd spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and 5 minutes thinking about solutions."

— Albert Einstein

### **Right Solution**

"There are not more than five musical notes, yet the combinations of these five give rise to more melodies than can ever be heard. There are not more than five primary colours, yet in combination they produce more hues than can ever been seen. There are not more than five cardinal tastes, yet combinations of them yield more flavours than can ever be tasted." — Sun Tzu, The Art of War



# **Innovator's Compass**

Leverage

**Focus** 



Wayne Rooney – delivering Return to Investors

