ANTECEDENTS OF ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION AMONG GENOMICS SCIENTISTS (INTERACTIVE PAPER)

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The importance of economic growth in science-based entrepreneurship has been widely established (Link & Welsh, 2013). In fact, genomics research is now considered to be extremely meaningful for the physical, social and economic benefits it can bring to society (JAMA, 2013). As few studies address entrepreneurship in life sciences (Moog et al., 2012), and responding to the poor commercialization outcomes of genomics research in Canada, a strategy for developing entrepreneurial education programs for genomics scientists was launched in 2011. 

**Method**

Using validated questionnaires as well as new ones created for scientists, 153 researchers were surveyed, out of 900 in Canada involved in genomics research. We used (1) a multiple correspondence analysis of different groupings of individuals: non-entrepreneurs, nascent, novice, experienced entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs and managers, into three clusters of scientists (former entrepreneurs, uninterested by startup, and interested by venturing); (2) two personality dimensions (creative / risk-taking personalities) and two sets of entrepreneurial skills (opportunity recognition / startup).

**Results and Implications**

Three categories emerge: (1) Actual and future entrepreneurs, including genomics scientists who started businesses in their field, and those who would like to; (2) Intrapreneurs and managers; (3) Professional people and genomics scientists uninterested in venturing.

These results confirm several research findings from the entrepreneurial intention and skills literature, as well as generate new findings: high scores on opportunity recognition skills, startup skills, risk-taking, and creative personality (cat. 1); medium levels (cat. 2); low levels of skills and risk-taking/creative personalities (cat. 3). Former and would-be entrepreneurs among genomics scientists share similar attributes and skills with entrepreneurs in other fields.

Amazingly, 5% of genomics scientists already own or owned a business in the past, and 32% of the remaining population of scientists intends to start a business. This highlights that there is an untapped entrepreneurial potential currently existing within the various fields of life sciences researchers. Hopefully, we aim to fill this huge gap in the near future.

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