Welcome to
International Innovation

BOOM!

That’s the sound you would hear if you walked into a room filled with hydrogen and oxygen gases and lit a match. Depending on how much of each gas is in the room, the simple act of sparking this kindling could cause an explosion tantamount to the one seen during the Hindenburg disaster.

In a chemistry context, a catalyst is a substance that causes a chemical reaction to occur differently – say at a faster rate, or at a lower temperature – than if it was not present. Quite often the reason for introducing a catalyst into a system is because of the result it will produce. Think about our room of hydrogen and oxygen. Without the fire’s presence, these two gases existed calmly in the same space, but they did not provide much use to anyone. After their explosion, however, visitors who enter this room would find pure, life-sustaining water molecules.

Catalysts do not only exist in the world of chemistry. We see real-world examples of catalysts in healthcare within the pages of this publication. This issue of International Innovation showcases researchers who are creating new methods and opportunities to provide superior care and treatment to problems plaguing the mind and body, all while doing so at a more affordable cost.

Not only does this publication present cutting-edge research from the healthcare field, it also features the political and industrial backdrop against which this work is set. It is in this context that we hear from Jim Philp of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development who shares an insight into how the public’s perception of science can affect its acceptability. Additionally, Dr Ursula Redeker describes how Europe is creating a space where business, research and education can meet and incite healthcare entrepreneurship.

We are working hard to build a dynamic community, bringing together a diverse range of researchers, funders, policy makers and commercial partners to showcase the very best from across the research spectrum. As ever, do not hesitate to contact us with any feedback or proposals for our next edition. Finally, if you are not already receiving our newsletter, register for free at: www.internationalinnovation.com/join-us/registration

Enjoy the issue!

Rosemary Peters
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