

# Robert Kneller

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From 1988 to 1997, Professor Kneller worked in cancer research in the US National Institutes of Health and then was responsible for the clinical trial agreements under which NIH and private companies cooperate to develop NIH-discovered cancer therapies. In 1997, he went to Japan to study its system of industry-university cooperation and since 1998 has been a professor at the University of Tokyo doing research that compares in Japan and America the roles of entrepreneurship, intellectual property, and academic research funding in the development of university discoveries.

One of the conclusions of this research is that startups contribute disproportionately to the development of innovative *biomedical technologies*. For Japan to realize its basic innovative potential, it needs to improve its ecosystem for science-based entrepreneurship. This is a multifaceted challenge that Professor Kneller is helping address by assisting the launch of successful startups based upon Japanese biomedical discoveries.

Professor Kneller continues to maintain licenses to practice law and medicine in the United States, and is certified as a specialist in preventive medicine. Further information is available at [www.kneller.tokyo](http://www.kneller.tokyo).