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# Thoughts on Research to Innovation

UC Alianza MX  
California-Mexico Innovation  
Exchange  
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# Background and Experiences

- 40+ years as an engineering professor
- Dean of Engineering, University of Florida
- Head, Engineering Directorate, National Science Foundation
- Vice Chancellor for Research, UC Irvine

# Research to Innovation

- Process (or system) by which research leads to innovation is poorly understood although it is getting better
- It is far from a linear and sequential process --- multiple feedback loops are involved
- There are multiple points for failure in the overall system
- Immense need and great rewards for improving all aspects of this system

# NSF and Mexico

- I-Corps program: experiential education for faculty and graduate students on basics of research to innovation
- Focus on “product-market” fit
- Collaboration with Mexico from NSF Engineering Directorate

## Building Innovation Ecosystem

- *Catalyzing Technology Commercialization and Cultivating Entrepreneurship*

Pramod Khargonekar

Assistant Director for Engineering  
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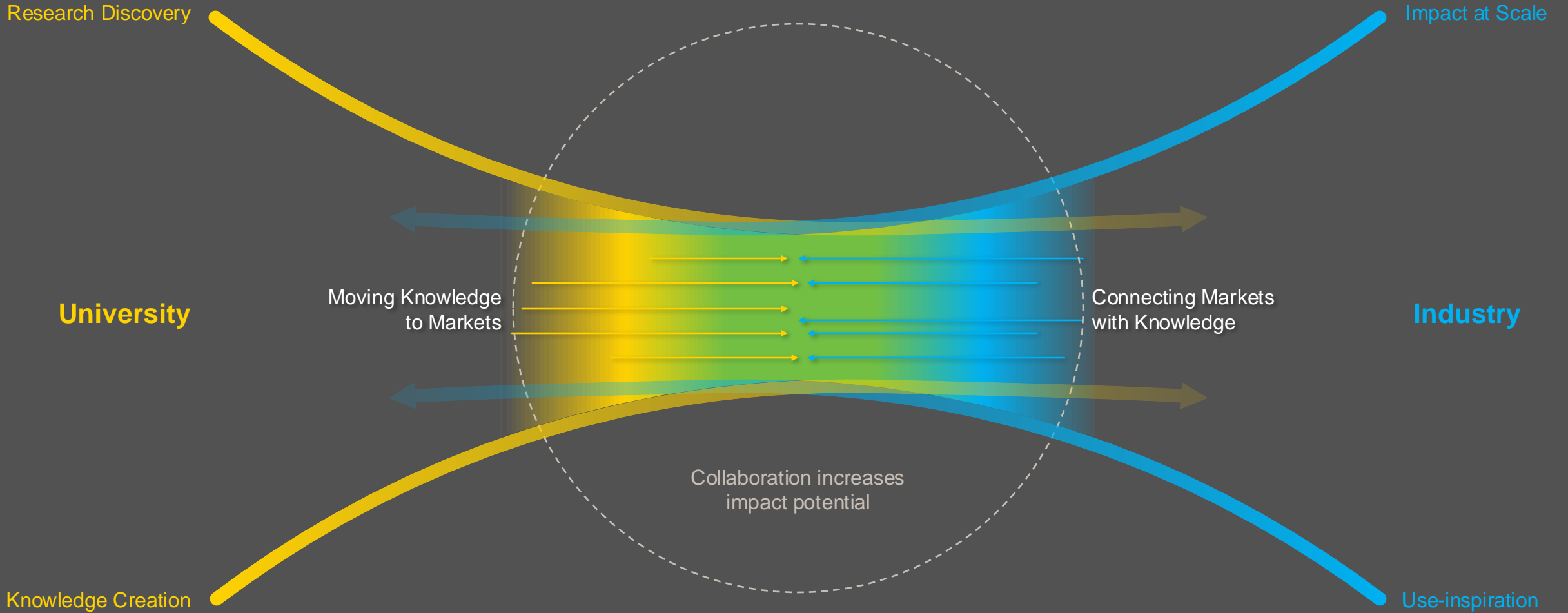
Mexican High-Level Innovation Forum  
for Policymakers  
Wilson Center Mexico Institute  
20 November 2014



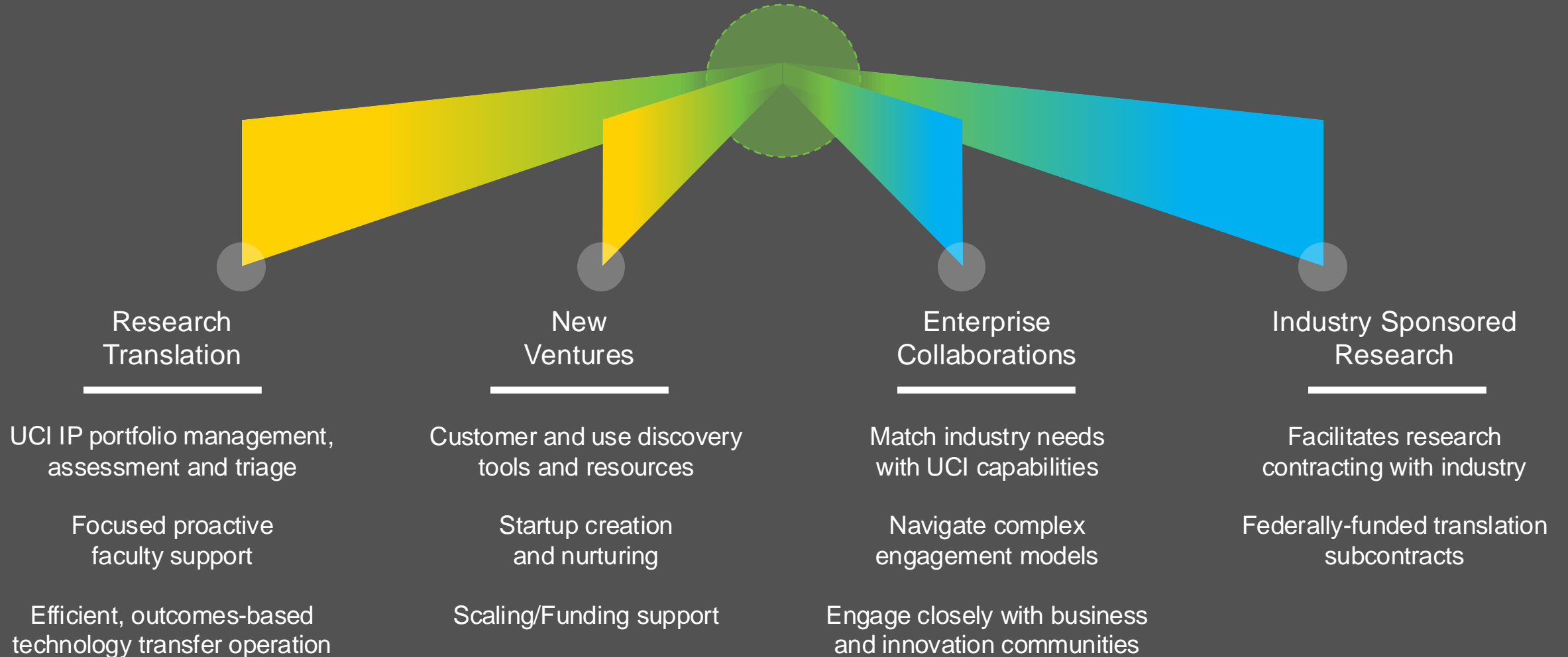
- We partner with researchers and industry to move UCI knowledge and discoveries into products and markets.



# Maximizing Impact Potential



# From Idea to Impact



# Opportunities for the Future

- Period of great uncertainty and epochal change
- Focus on areas of mutual interest and expertise
- Focus on “training the trainers”
- AI technologies could be game changing
- Reshoring and near shoring of manufacturing
- Energy, environment, water, food, housing will remain important needs
- Improve “research to innovation” system



**Comments**

**Ideas**

**Questions?**



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