

Neurosurgical Innovation in the Public & Private sectors

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Great innovations of our time

- Addressed seemingly insoluble problems
- Range from simple to exceptional ideas
- Eventually achieve widespread acceptance



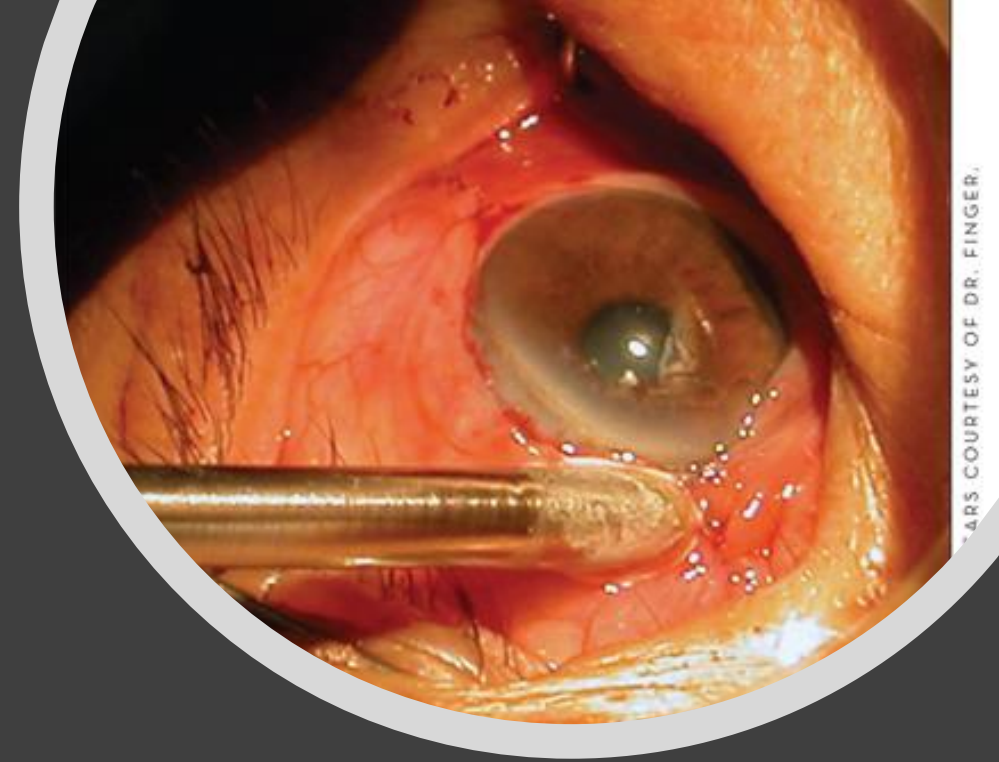
Smartlock safety syringe

- Hendrikus J. van der Meyden and Alexis A Wadman
- 1992
- Reduces risk of needlestick injuries



Retinal cryoprobe

- Dr. Percy Amoils
- Repairs detached retinae
- Cataract treatment



Heart Transplant



- Prof Chris Barnard
- 1967



'CAT scan sofa' by .. brainsk (via Flickr). CC BY licence.

Path to innovation

Identify an issue

- Diagnostic
- Therapeutic

Possible solutions & limitations

- Ideal
- Realistic

Think outside the box

- Creativity
- Insight

The public sector



Characteristics of public sector neurosurgery

Massive and increasing workload

Low specialist to patient ratio's

Morale issues

Equipment issues

But also.....

1

Large volumes for
teaching and
learning

2

Grateful patients

3

Need to
compromise
negatives and
positives through
innovation

Innovations in Johannesburg neurosurgery

Expansion of teaching and service platform to include private and public entities

Public – private partnerships

Exposure of trainees to the benefits of the volumes of state care as well as the technology available in private sector



Innovations in Johannesburg neurosurgery

Expected benefits of these innovations

More rounded Registrar

Better exposed all rounder

Enhanced service delivery

Need to attract and retain more specialised skills

Need to collaborate wider with relevant institutions