

The Effects of Geographic Location on Communication Patterns Among Biotechnology Firms (Continued)

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Communication as a Function of Distance Among Firms



Returning to Our Old Studies of Communication Among Engineers



Network for a Single Department Showing the Effect of Physical Location.



Figure by MIT OCW.



Probability of Technical Communication as a Function of Distance Between Work Stations





- Does a similar effect influence communication among firms?
 - If it does, that would argue in favor of geographic clustering.
- To test this, Ron Ozer determined the mean distance of each firm in the study from all of the other firms.
 - He then related this measure to the amount of communication that scientists in each firm reported.



Communication Reported By Scientists in Each Organization as a Function of Mean Distance From Other Organizations



Mean Distance From Other Organizations in the Study



Universities





Big Pharma





Big Bio





Where To From Here?

• What more can we learn?

- Analyses of the network to relate network position to firm performance.
 - Comparison between cluster 'members' and firms in the control group.
 - Long term growth.
 - Size, valuation, etc.
 - Patent filings
 - Investigatory New Drug Applications
 - Etc.
- Follow-up interviews to flesh out the network results.
- Advice to the many geographic regions attempting to stimulate the growth of similar Biotech clusters.
- Is this the new model for doing R&D?
 - How do individual firms capture the gains?