An empirical analysis of R&D externalities¹

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Abstract:

R&D is generally considered as a public good. It provides positive externalities to other firms. Using an event study methodology, this paper investigates how the stock prices of the rival firms respond to an increase in the R&D expenditures of a firm. Examining firms in the pharmaceutical industries, we found that some firms benefit from R&D externalities. Moreover, the regression analysis indicated that R&D-intensive firms are greatly benefiting from them. This suggests that these firms have the full potential to absorb new R&D knowledge.

Key word: R&D externalities, rival firms, event study

JEL classification: L25, G30,O33

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