

## R&D Management Journal - Special Issue Call for Papers

### **“Providing solutions in emergencies: R&D and innovation management during Covid-19”**

#### **Guest Editor Team (in alphabetical order):**

**Alberto Di Minin**, Istituto di Management, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa,  
[alberto.diminin@santannapisa.it](mailto:alberto.diminin@santannapisa.it)

**Lawrence Dooley**, Cork University Business School, University College Cork, [l.dooley@ucc.ie](mailto:l.dooley@ucc.ie)

**Valentina Lazzarotti**, School of Industrial Engineering, LIUC Università Cattaneo, [vlazzarotti@liuc.it](mailto:vlazzarotti@liuc.it)

**Raffaella Manzini**, School of Industrial Engineering, LIUC Università Cattaneo, [rmanzini@liuc.it](mailto:rmanzini@liuc.it)

**Letizia Mortara**, Centre for Technology Management, Institute for Manufacturing, Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge, [lm367@cam.ac.uk](mailto:lm367@cam.ac.uk)

**Andrea Piccaluga**, Istituto di Management, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa,  
[andrea.piccaluga@santannapisa.it](mailto:andrea.piccaluga@santannapisa.it)

#### **Background for the Special Issue:**

Innovation literature demonstrates that crises may be great stimulants of innovation. At this moment the world finds itself in the middle of a severe crisis, fighting against an ill-understood enemy which is challenging every aspect of our normal daily lives. The reality of this unexpected global health emergency caused by the Covid-19 virus is reshaping everything we know about social and economic systems. While each of us look on with a degree of shock/fear of the health risks posed by this virus to loved-ones, together with the social/economic consequences of the required Government actions to ‘flatten the curve’, we are also seeing evidence of a global phenomenon: the emergence of rapid and potentially disruptive innovative efforts, both from both traditional and eclectic sources, to enhance our collective ability to protect human life.

We see both private and public R&D laboratories which are rapidly obtaining results for promising and innovative medical treatments and vaccines. Digital technologies (e.g. phone apps) are being used to obtain updated maps of the infection spreading. High-tech – and non high-tech - companies are rapidly increasing or transforming their production to meet the demand of complex medical devices, or components. We also see the development of crowdsourced solutions and the use of 3D Printing to manufacture innovative or missing components for medical or personal

protective equipment . Universities are working on new algorithms for data analysis and are even involved in manufacturing processes for chemicals and electronics. R&D and innovation are therefore responding rapidly to this emergency, both in the public and in the private sector.

This special issue aims to capture the evolving practice of such Covid-19 stimulated innovative efforts, to crystallise some of the lessons about the innovation approaches taken in the effort to prevent, mitigate, and ultimately overcome the crisis. Through bringing together the reflections of the innovation community, firstly we strive to disseminate this emerging best practice actions to aid current and future efforts in the fight against Covid-19 and secondly, to understand how practice of these innovations may reshape the theories and approaches that our field has relied on over the last 50 years.

A first topic for discussion is: How did the scientific community attempt to anticipate, prepare and protect the world from this crisis? What kind of obstacles, if any, have prevented these measures from fully working?

The second topic for discussion focuses more on the more positive side of this crisis: How science, R&D and innovation communities are having a positive impact? When and how is this occurring and what are the implications for innovation best practice in the future?

### **Case for the Special Issue:**

Given this background, in this Special Issue we are expecting contributions which describe cases and experiences through which academic, managerial and policy contributions and insights can be obtained. Of course, contributions based on the use of large data sets and/or aiming at theory development are also very welcome. Submissions should be in the style of the R&D Management Journal, i.e. scientifically rigorous papers, although submissions can be shorter than the usual standard and single case focused.

The main aim is to share meaningful experiences so that they can be useful both for the current crisis and for future - hopefully less harmful - situations.

Contributions may consider, for example, the following questions:

- How are private and public R&D laboratories contributing to find innovative vaccines and treatments? What has influenced the labs' efficacy? How are they organizing or reorganising their work? How are Open Innovation and other collaborative platforms/tools used? How is IP managed?
- How are innovative solutions shared across countries? Which communication channels are used? Is absorptive capacity an issue?
- How are high-tech companies as well as public research contributing to offer innovative products and services useful during the crisis? How are new manufacturing techniques, new organizational procedures, new ways of collaborating between public and private emerging?
- Many companies converted their manufacturing activities to produce needed supplies (e.g. from clothes to masks). How is the manufacturing transformation occurring? To what extent were they supported in doing so by their R&D and innovation competences?
- How are hospitals and front line medical services worldwide reshaping their activities? How do they manage to use and acquire the inputs received from many external innovation sources?

- How are governments interacting with public and private R&D? Are they setting up specific calls?
- Are new contractual forms used, for example in the field of procurement? Are they successful?
- How are contributions coming from various R&D (public and private) laboratories - which are globally dispersed - coordinated, in order to rapidly find innovative solutions?
- Are current international IP laws adequate in case crucial vaccines or medical devices are developed by private or public R&D laboratories? What are the responses of the nations and what new IP frameworks are emerging?
- How are innovation efforts achieving alignment with\circumventing\adapting regulatory requirements in order to bring developments to the 'front line' to deliver benefit? What are both the advantages and 'darker side' of such practice?
- How is technology being adopted\adapted to provide platforms and mechanisms to counteract the societal challenge due to 'social distancing' and 'lock-down'.

This list is not exhaustive.

### **Paper Submission**

Given the exceptional nature of this Special Issue and the relevance and need to collect and disseminate evidence in a timely manner, we have two interrelated yet distinct calls and thus are setting two separate deadlines.

The deadline for the first call is set at **May 15, 2020**. For this first call, we invite shorter than usual articles, focused heavily on interesting and impactful cases of Covid-19 innovation and the innovation best practice that should be considered by future developments to facilitate societal benefit. These submissions will have a theoretical underpinning of the case focus but it may not be as developed as for submissions of the second call. The goal of the editorial team is to have all necessary reviews/amendments completed and articles published before the end of 2020.

The deadline for the second call is set at **September 30, 2020**. We expect that contributors to this will have the opportunity of writing more 'traditional' and comprehensive works, reflective of the theoretical implications of the case practice. While it is hoped that some authors that have submitted for call 1 of this Special issue will continue to develop their research and consider submitting for call 2, both calls are mutually exclusive and thus call 2 is open to the entire innovation community, irrespective of whether or not they have submitted for call 1.

### **Submission Guidelines**

Submissions should be made through the Scholar One submission system:

<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rndm>

Please select the '**Special Issue**' article type on submission and indicate that the manuscript is to be considered for '**Providing solutions in emergencies: R&D and innovation management during Covid-19**' when prompted at Step 1.

For formatting information you are encouraged to follow the author guidelines at:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/14679310/homepage/forauthors.html>