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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Ken Riopelle is an educator, entrepreneur, management consultant and Research Professor at the Wayne State University. His professional career spans over 40 years in both the auto industry and academia. His primary research interests include: accelerating the diffusion of innovations in globally networked organisations, the study of collaborative innovation networks or COINs, and the science of team science using co-author and co-citation analysis as a method to visualise, measure and understand scientific collaboration.

Julia Gluesing is the President of Cultural Connections, Inc., a research, consulting, and education firm supporting global networked organisations. She is also a Business and Organisational Anthropologist and Research Professor in Industrial and Systems Engineering at the Wayne State University, where she teaches global perspectives in engineering management, global leadership and qualitative research methods course in the Global Executive Track PhD. From 2005–2010, she was the Principal Investigator on a National Science Foundation Grant, the Digital Diffusion Dashboard, to study the diffusion of innovation across the global enterprise by tapping into an organisation's information technology infrastructure.

Casper Lassenius is an Associate Professor of Software Engineering at the Aalto University in Finland. He is interested in novel ways of software development including agile and lean software development in globally distributed settings, and the role of COINs in software engineering.

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This special issue of *IJOE* features the six most future-oriented and thought-provoking papers from the COINs15 Conference on Collaborative Innovation Networks, which took place at the Keio University in Tokyo, from March 12 to 14, 2015. The theme for the COINs15 Conference was 'creative networks', and our six papers included in this special issue combine original, high-quality research that reflects the full breadth and scope of

collaboration science and design. The papers cover a wide range of topics from COINs in teaching, to healthcare for chronic diseases and dementia, to Wikipedia editing and feedback mechanisms, to the dynamics of creativity.

The first paper by Peter A. Gloor, Maria Paasivaara, Christine Z. Miller, and Casper Lassenius is a reflection on their lessons learned from teaching a distributed virtual course on collaborative innovation networks (COINs) over the last 12 years at five different sites located in four different time zones. The reader will learn how the instructors and students improvised over time from year-to-year and how the authors extended the six principles of teamwork by Richard Hackman to foster collaboration.

The second paper by Keiichi Nemoto and Ken-Ichi Okada takes us into the collaboration world of Wikipedia authors to provide a cross cultural perspective for evaluating how a new social function – Wiki-Thanks, introduced in 2013 – is being used across seven different language editions of Wikipedia, English, German, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Finnish. This unique research design provides a comparative method to investigate the impact on editing and the network effects of the Wiki-Thanks feedback system.

The third paper by Leanne Ma, Yoshiaki Matsuzawa, and Marlene Scardamalia focuses our attention at the elementary school level of 4th graders and how researchers can improvise and investigate social network patterns of rotating leadership in an elementary school class and the knowledge-creating moves associated with temporary leadership. The paper concludes with a discussion of the context of education for the Knowledge Age.

The fourth paper by Takashi Iba, Aya Matsumoto, Arisa Kamada, Nao Tamaki, Tomoki Kaneko, and Makoto Okada shifts our attention to the elderly, their caregivers, staff and families who are confronted with living with dementia. The study takes the reader through the discovery of a pattern language for living with dementia in order to improve people's daily lives and how they talk about dementia.

The fifth paper by Peter A. Gloor, Hanuma Teja Maddali, and Peter A. Margolis explores the online world of patients of chronic diseases. Their study uses social media as a mirror to understand hidden characteristics of patients with chronic diseases, who are expressing themselves on Twitter, Facebook, and in online forums. In the paper, we learn about the comparison of the social network structure and emotionality of people talking about Crohn's disease, cystic fibrosis, and Type 1 diabetes.

The sixth and final paper by Pentti Launonen, Sanna Tiilikainen, and K.C. Kern concludes this special issue and take us back into the online world of Wikipedia to explore the dynamics of creativity and self-organising patterns of creative collaboration among Wikipedia editors as manifestations of social dynamics among the editors. The authors use a novel approach of analysing the correlations between editors' contribution patterns over the lifetime of the articles and readers will learn about the existence of four socially conditioned personas among the editors.

We invite you to read all six papers to gain a diverse understanding of how COINs operate in and influence collaboration in learning, healthcare, and online information sharing contexts and to join us for the next Conference on COINs. To learn more about COINs conferences, speakers, authors and resources visit the website: <http://coinsconference.org>.