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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Brian P. Cozzarin is a Professor in the Department of Management Science and Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Waterloo. He teaches courses in quantitative data analysis, economics of technological change, and managerial economics. His research interests include the economics of technological change, applied econometrics and entrepreneurship.

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This special issue comprises five papers aimed at investigating the relationship between intangible assets and the innovative capabilities of firms. We are interested in understanding the causal mechanism by which intangible assets (IA) can support innovation, which encompasses technical, marketing, and organisational aspects. IA remains an under-researched area in technology management. They cannot be purchased and require significant development time. Intangible assets may have simultaneous uses and benefits. Typical examples include trade secrets, patents, databases, information, personal and organisational networks, know-how, brand names, advertising, reputation, and corporate culture. IA should sustain a firm, contribute to its growth, and are also important factors in determining firm value.

The paper by Park et al. discusses the commercialisation of scientific inventions through university spin-offs. Intangible assets possessed by scientists (research excellence, patenting activity, and international networks) aid in the formation of university spin-offs, enhancing their entrepreneurial capabilities. Berg and McKelvey examine how graduate students who engage in joint research with firms and their home universities act as boundary-spanners to enhance knowledge networks. They find that the primary activity is technological problem-solving, which improves absorptive capacity within the firm. The third paper by Cohendet et al. uses two case studies to demonstrate that innovative firms maintain creative slack in terms of unused ideas. They show that this creative slack serves as an important intangible asset for knowledge creation and innovation. The fourth paper by Ng et al. examines intellectual assets in terms of value-creating alliance experiences and value-capturing alliance experiences. Both of these concepts broaden firms' horizons in terms of new innovation and the ability to respond to new market opportunities. The fifth paper by Antonelli and Pialli discusses reduced productivity resulting from the capitalisation of new knowledge. They conceptualise that intangible assets previously accounted for as labour or intermediate inputs have an impact on increasing capital while also reducing total factor productivity.