

## Small Particles, Big Issues: PRIORITYze DEI

**Issue 10 03/11/2023: The importance of networks in research.**

Dear all,

We hope this email finds you well.

In the ever-changing realm of academic research, the pursuit of excellence is a constant driving force for scholars. The pursuit of knowledge and discovery not only fuels intellectual curiosity but is also the key to securing vital research budgets from sponsors. Quality research is not just a personal aspiration, but a collective responsibility that shapes the academic landscape. It is with this premise that we embark on a journey of exploration into the world of research collaboration. The foundation of knowledge creation does not depend solely on individual brilliance but thrives on the synergy that emerges from collaborative efforts.

We believe that this synergy, often referred to as social capital in academia, offers an attractive avenue for improving the quality of research.

This theme is addressed in the article "The mechanisms of collaboration in inventive teams: Composition, social networks, and geography" by Bercovitz, Janet, and Maryann Feldman.

The main findings from the study are as follows:

- There are coordination costs associated with reaching across academic departments and organizational boundaries to build creative teams.
- However, there are also benefits associated with knowledge diversity, particularly in the case of truly innovative combinations.
- Team performance improves with the team's accumulated experience, supporting arguments for internal cohesion.
- Teams composed of members from multiple institutions (the focal university, other research institutions, and/or industry) are more successful in generating patents, licenses, and royalties.
- The presence of prior social ties that support connections with external team members positively influences commercial outcomes.
- There is no benefit to geographical proximity in team configuration.

We invite you to take a look at the full article, hoping it will be food for your research process.

Best regards

Mariasole and Camilla