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INDUSTRY MATTERS

Information, insights, and advice for ACS industry members

March 25, 2020

As Alexa Dembek, DuPont's Chief Technology and Sustainability Officer put it, "... we have not faced a crisis as multifaceted as COVID-19 in generations." Indeed. Which is why we asked executives in several industries to let us know what they have learned so far about moving their businesses forward in the face of such an overwhelming, complex, and dynamic challenge.

My thanks to Alexa Dembek, DSM's Marcus Remmers, Pfizer's Charlotte Allerton, ExxonMobil's Vijay Swarup, and Genentech's Wendy Young for escaping the crucible long enough to share their thoughts with ACS Industry Matters readers.

*John C. Katz
Executive Editor*

■ **Presumably there is no playbook on your bookshelf labeled, "Open in case of Global Pandemic." What have you learned to-date about moving your business forward in the face of an exceptionally disruptive 'black swan' event?**



Marcus Remmers
Chief Technology Officer,
DSM

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Charlotte Allerton
Head of Medicine Design,
Pfizer



Vijay Swarup
Vice President of Research and
Development,
ExxonMobil

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"During any crisis – I have a motto: put people first. It is..." [Read More](#)



Alexa Dembek

Chief Technology and Sustainability
Officer,
DuPont



Wendy Young

Senior Vice President of Small Molecule
Drug Discovery,
Genentech

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At the end of Dec. 2019, scientists discovered a novel coronavirus infecting people in Wuhan, China. On March 11, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, is a pandemic. C&EN has made free its coverage of the race to understand and respond to COVID-19. [Read More](#)

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In light of the current outbreak of a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), ACS Publications would like to share this Virtual Issue that features a collection of articles on coronavirus research. Chemistry has a key role to play in understanding everything from viral structure to pathogenesis, isolation of vaccines and therapies, as well as in the development of materials and techniques used by basic researchers, virologists and clinicians. [Read the Free ACS Publication](#)

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