

# THE BRIEFING

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The Newsletter of the INFORMS Section on Public Programs, Service, and Needs (SPPSN)  
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## Welcome from the President

### ***Words from Ozlem Ergun, President of SPPSN***

I hope that summer has treated everybody well. As the new school year starts, I am excited with the anticipation of the INFORMS Annual meeting with many SPPSN activities. So far our membership numbers are looking on par with last year's levels and I invite all of our members to encourage others to join SPPSN as they are renewing their INFORMS memberships for 2014. Moreover, our paper competition had another successful year with a healthy number of submissions. I am hoping to see you all in Minneapolis at our sessions and during our lunch/business meeting on Monday October 7th.

Please contact Erica Gralla ([egralla@gwu.edu](mailto:egralla@gwu.edu)) with any news of interest to our members, and contact any one of the officers with ideas for new initiatives and how to improve the existing ones. As always, don't forget to take along a friend to any of our events!

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# SPPSN Best Paper Competition

## ***Finalists for the 2013 SPPSN Best Paper Competition***

The second SPPSN best paper award competition is underway. The winners will be announced at the SPPSN business meeting at the 2012 INFORMS Annual Meeting, including a first prize, a second prize, and an honorable mention.

This award is intended to encourage journal-quality research in all of the disciplines and application areas represented within SPPSN, and to build a tradition of scholarly exchange of knowledge at our research meetings beyond attendance at sessions. I would like to acknowledge the chairs of this year's committee, Jérémie Gallien and Julie Swann, along with the entire judging committee:

- Jérémie Gallien, London Business School (Committee Chair)
- Julie Swann, School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Georgia Tech (Committee Chair)
- Atalys Atasu, College of Management, Georgia Tech
- Jonathan Helm, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University
- Natalie Privett, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University

The finalists are:

- Armagan Bayram, Senay Solak (University of Massachusetts): “Offer or No Offer: Managing Foreclosed Housing Acquisitions in Societal Response to Foreclosures”
- Weihong Hu (University of Southern California), Mariel Lavieri (University of Michigan), Alejandro Toriello (University of Southern California) and Xiang Liu (University of Michigan): “Strategic Health Workforce Planning”
- Edieal Pinker (Yale University), Tolga Tezcan (University of Rochester): “Determining the optimal configuration of hospital inpatient rooms in the presence of isolation patients”
- Peng Shi, Itai Ashlagi (MIT Sloan Management School): “Optimal Allocation of Public Services Without Monetary Transfers or Costly Signals”

# SPPSN at the 2013 INFORMS Annual Meeting

## **SPPSN Sessions**

The 2013 INFORMS Annual Meeting will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, October 6-9, 2013. SPPSN is sponsoring or co-sponsoring a total of 14 sessions at the meeting on a wide range of topics, including medical services, public health, humanitarian and global health supply chains, and public and community-based services.

Thanks are due to Robert Hampshire (Carnegie Mellon) and David Hutton (University of Michigan) for co-chairing the cluster, and to all the session chairs for putting together an excellent program.

### Sunday Oct 06, 08:00 - 09:30 : Network Diffusion and Infectious Disease Control

**Chair: Hugh Medal**, Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University, 260 McCain Engineering Building, Mississippi State University MS 39762, United States of America, [hugh.medal@msstate.edu](mailto:hugh.medal@msstate.edu)

### Sunday Oct 06, 11:00 - 12:30 : Joint Session Doing Good/SPPSN: Doing Good with Good OR I

**Chair: Jérémie Gallien**, London Business School, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SA, United Kingdom, [fgallien@london.edu](mailto:fgallien@london.edu)

### Sunday Oct 06, 11:00 - 12:30 : Joint Session SPPSN/DAS: Community-Based Operations Research

**Chair: Michael Johnson**, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston, Dept of Public Policy and Public Affairs, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston MA 0212503393, United States of America, [michael.johnson@umb.edu](mailto:michael.johnson@umb.edu)

### Sunday Oct 06, 13:30 - 15:00 : Joint Session Doing Good/SPPSN: Doing Good with Good OR II

**Chair: Laura McLay**, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Madison WI 53706, United States of America, [lmclay@wisc.edu](mailto:lmclay@wisc.edu)

### Sunday Oct 06, 13:30 - 15:00 : OR in Vaccine Design and Pandemic Preparedness

**Chair: Mario Ventresca**, University of Toronto, 5 King's College Rd, Toronto, Canada, [mario.ventresca@utoronto.ca](mailto:mario.ventresca@utoronto.ca)

### Sunday Oct 06, 16:30 - 18:00 : Models for Emergency Medical Services

**Chair: Laura McLay**, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Madison WI 53706, United States of America, [lmclay@wisc.edu](mailto:lmclay@wisc.edu)

### Monday Oct 07, 08:00 - 09:30 : Efficient Utilization of Public Services and Programs for Improving Public Health

**Chair: Irem Sengul**, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC, United States of America, [isengul@ncsu.edu](mailto:isengul@ncsu.edu)

### Monday Oct 07, 11:00 - 12:30 : OR Models for Disease Management and Public Health Policy

**Chair: Shan Liu**, Assistant Professor, University of Washington, Industrial & Systems Engineering, University of Washington, Box 352650, Seattle WA 98195-2650, United States of America, [shanliu@stanford.edu](mailto:shanliu@stanford.edu)

### Monday Oct 07, 13:30 - 15:00 : Joint Session SPPSN/HAS: Global Health Supply Chains

**Chair: Natalie Privett**, Assistant Professor of Management and Policy, New York University, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, 295 Lafayette St, 2nd Floor, New York NY 10012, United States of America, [natalie.privett@nyu.edu](mailto:natalie.privett@nyu.edu)

### Monday Oct 07, 16:30 - 18:00 : Joint Session HAS\SPPSN: Healthcare Decisions in Resource Constrained Environments

**Chair: Mariel Lavieri**, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, 1205 Beal Ave, 2783 IOE, Ann Arbor MI 48105, United States of America, [lavieri@umich.edu](mailto:lavieri@umich.edu)

**Co-Chair: Gregory Schell**, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Michigan, 1205 Beal Ave, Office 1773, ANN ARBOR MI 48109, United States of America, [schellg@umich.edu](mailto:schellg@umich.edu)

### Monday Oct 07, 16:30 - 18:00 : Transportation and Routing in Public Policy

**Chair: Ronald McGarvey**, Assistant Professor, University of Missouri, Lafferre Hall, Columbia MO 65211, United States of America, [mcgarveyr@missouri.edu](mailto:mcgarveyr@missouri.edu)

[Tuesday Oct 08, 08:00 - 09:30 : Public Services and Operations Research](#)

**Chair: Laura McLay**, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Madison WI 53706, United States of America, [lmclay@wisc.edu](mailto:lmclay@wisc.edu)

[Tuesday Oct 08, 11:00 - 12:30 : Planning for Health and Humanitarian Response](#)

**Chair: David Hutton**, Professor, University of Michigan, 1420 Washington Heights, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America, [dwhutton@umich.edu](mailto:dwhutton@umich.edu)

[Tuesday Oct 08, 13:30 - 15:00 : Public-Sector Decision Modeling Applications](#)

**Chair: Michael Johnson**, Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts Boston, Dept of Public Policy and Public Affairs, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston MA 0212503393, United States of America, [michael.johnson@umb.edu](mailto:michael.johnson@umb.edu)

### ***SPPSN Business Meeting***

The SPPSN Business meeting will be held:

**Monday, October 7, 12.30 - 1.30,**

**Check conference program for confirmed location**

Lunch tickets may be purchased in advance with conference registration. If registering online, be sure to scroll down to "Select Additional Meeting Items" and add the lunch before checking out. If you have already registered for the conference and you would like to add a lunch ticket, just send a note to [meetings@informs.org](mailto:meetings@informs.org) or call Jessica Bennett at 443-757-3591. We encourage everyone to buy tickets before the meeting, since tickets will be sold on-site only if seats are still available.

## SPPSN at Other Conferences

### ***Summary of SPPSN Activities at EURO/INFORMS 2013***

SPPSN sponsored three sessions at the Euro/Informs 2013 meeting in Rome. The sessions, each covering three or four talks, focused on the topics of humanitarian logistics, global health and public/nonprofit supply chains. Presentations focused on a variety of subjects in each topic area. For instance, in the humanitarian logistics session, there were four talks, each focusing on a completely different problem that might arise in post-disaster environments. In general, all sessions were well-attended and the questions from audience sparked fruitful discussions. On behalf of all SPPSN officers, I would like to thank the session chairs and the presenters for their outstanding contribution to the SPPSN stream. (Provided by Burcu Balcik, chair of the SPPSN stream in EURO/INFORMS 2013)

### ***Summary of SPPSN Activities at INFORMS Healthcare 2013***

SPPSN sponsored and/or co-sponsored a total of 5 sessions at the INFORMS Healthcare in Chicago. The sessions featured talks on a wide variety of topics, including emergency medical services, risk management in healthcare, vaccination, pandemics and public health. The sessions were well-attended and sparked a number of fruitful discussions. We extend a sincere thanks to the session chairs and presenters for their efforts in delivering an outstanding group of sessions. (Provided by Mariel Lavieri)

## SPPSN Membership

Please remember to renew your SPPSN membership for this year and for 2013. You need to be a current member to be able to post to the SPPSN list and continue receiving e-mails from SPPSN. There are several ways to renew:

1. Renew **online** at <http://www.informs.org/Membership/Renew-Your-Membership> and, check “Public Programs and Special Needs” under Section.
2. If you have already renewed your membership but forgot to sign up for SPPSN, you can join an INFORM community here: <http://www.informs.org/Membership/Join-INFORMS-and-or-INFORMS-Communities>
3. Renew by **phone** by calling INFORMS member services (800-446-3676).
4. Renew by **mail or fax** using the form [pdf] linked on the following website: <https://www.informs.org/Membership/Join-INFORMS-and-or-INFORMS-Communities>

# Calls for Papers

## ***IIE Transactions: Focused Issue on Operations Engineering and Analytics: Government, Public Policy, and Society Department***

Department Editor: Laura A. McLay, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Associate Editors: Kash Barker, University of Oklahoma; Maria Mayorga, North Carolina State University; Tom Sharkey, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

This department intends to publish papers that describe innovative operations research models and methodologies that address problems of societal benefit. This department defines government, public policy, and society broadly but is focused on advanced quantitative and analytical methods to design processes and systems, make better decisions, and solve problems of public concern. The department's scope includes the protection of critical infrastructure; border, maritime, and port security; transportation security; food safety; emergency preparedness and response; humanitarian logistics; evacuation modeling; recovery efforts; public sector and public services operations research; decision making for homeland security; and non-profit and community-based operations research, among other related topics in government, public policy, and society. Papers submitted to this department must clearly motivate the problem's relevance to society and should make substantive and innovative contributions to solving the problem. Papers that describe collaborations and applications of the research and papers that evaluate public policy alternatives are particularly desired. Authors interested in submitting a paper to this department are encouraged to contact the department editor at [lmclay@wisc.edu](mailto:lmclay@wisc.edu). For more information about IIE Transactions and the manuscript submission process, visit the journal web site at <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uiie20/current>.

## ***Risk Analysis: Mathematical Modeling Department***

Area Editor: Seth Guikema, Johns Hopkins University, [sguikem1@jhu.edu](mailto:sguikem1@jhu.edu)

Associate Editor: Laura McLay, University of Wisconsin, [lmclay@wisc.edu](mailto:lmclay@wisc.edu)

This area publishes papers describing innovative risk analysis models and methods that address important real-world risk assessment and risk management problems using mathematical, statistical, and computational techniques. Papers submitted to the Mathematical Modeling area should provide new models for assessing, characterizing, communicating, or managing risks. Applications include the protection of critical infrastructure; homeland, transportation, environmental, and health security; emergency preparedness and response; hazards and disasters; and risk estimation, among other related topics in risk analysis. Methodologies drawn from operations research, game theory, statistics, and decision analysis are particularly suitable for this area. Papers that evaluate policy alternatives and that validate theoretical conclusions with real-world data are particularly desired. Papers describing straightforward applications of existing techniques should be submitted to other venues. Papers submitted to this area must clearly motivate the problem's relevance to risk analysis and should make substantive and innovative contributions to solving the problem using methods that are general enough, and clearly enough explained, to be valuable to other practitioners.

# About the INFORMS Section on Public Programs, Services and Needs

The Section for Public Programs, Service, and Needs (SPPSN) is the INFORMS subdivision dedicated to, in the words of the INFORMS slogan, “doing good with good OR.” The section furthers the use of operations research and management science in the following areas:

- *Public Policy* – improving governmental decision-making at the legislative and strategic levels.
- *Public Programs* – improving the management of government programs, services and operations.
- *Public Safety* – improving decision-making in support of homeland security, law enforcement, emergency preparedness, and disaster response.
- *Public Service* – supporting community development and public service organizations, and encouraging members of the ORMS professions to volunteer their know-how in public service causes.
- *Public Needs* – Improving logistics and other national and international programs to address humanitarian needs.

The section carries out its mission by sponsoring presentations at INFORMS national meetings and providing publicity for ORMS conducted in the public and civic spheres.

SPPSN was formed from a 2009 merger of three efforts devoted to “doing good with good OR”. The first was the Public Programs and Processes Section (PPPS), which was the INFORMS section devoted to OR conducted in the areas of public policy, public programs and public safety. The second was an initiative to start an INFORMS forum devoted to community operations research and the third was an initiative to start an INFORMS forum devoted to supporting humanitarian assistance. The three groups, in consultation with the INFORMS Subdivision Council, decided that the best approach was to have a single expanded section that would broadly address ORMS conducted in the public and civic spheres.

Membership is \$10 for INFORMS members, \$15 for non-members, and \$5 for students.

## 2013 Officers:

- President: **Ozlem Ergun**, Georgia Institute of Technology, [oergun@isye.gatech.edu](mailto:oergun@isye.gatech.edu)
- President-Elect: **Laura McLay**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, [lmclay@wisc.edu](mailto:lmclay@wisc.edu)
- Secretary/Treasurer: **Mariel Lavieri**, University of Michigan, [lavieri@umich.edu](mailto:lavieri@umich.edu)
- Senior Vice President of Programs: **Jessica Heier-Stamm**, Kansas State University, [jlhs@k-state.edu](mailto:jlhs@k-state.edu)
- Junior Vice President of Programs: **Robert Hampshire**, Carnegie Mellon, [hamp@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:hamp@andrew.cmu.edu)
- Vice President of Communications: **Erica Gralla**, George Washington University, [egralla@gwu.edu](mailto:egralla@gwu.edu)

## From the editor

I hope you have enjoyed this fall edition of the SPPSN newsletter. I would like to invite you to contribute to the next edition, which will be published in the spring. Please share news of achievements, awards, publications, calls for papers, special issues, and relevant conferences. Please also feel free to provide feedback on the content or format of our newsletter and communication from SPPSN in general.

Please take advantage of the resources provided on the [SPPSN website](#), including past issues of the newsletter, upcoming events, links to further information sources such as twitter, and information about our best paper competition. Feedback on this or any other aspect of SPPSN is always welcome.

Sincerely,

Erica L. Gralla  
[egralla@gwu.edu](mailto:egralla@gwu.edu)