INFORMS Health Applications Society

Spring 2017 Newsletter

http://www.informs.org/Community/HAS

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From the President

On behalf of the 2017 Health Applications Society Board Members, I invite you to peruse this semi-annual issue of the HAS Newsletter. In this issue, we summarize the events since the 2016 INFORMS Annual meeting, as well as introduce the new board members. Later in the fall we plan to publish our second issue, in which we will cover interesting and current applications of healthcare research being conducted by our community. Please let me know if you have a project that you would like to showcase and share with the INFORMS community via the fall newsletter.

Let me begin by acknowledging the past board members – Turgay Ayer (President), Diwakar Gupta (Past President), Wen-ya Wang (Treasurer), Jessica L. Heier Stamm (Secretary), and Dionne Aleman (Webmaster), for their leadership and service to HAS. Thank you!

I would also like to acknowledge Jackie Griffin and Tinglong Dai for finding time out of their extremely busy schedules to conceptualize and produce this issue of the newsletter. The list of current board members and council members is on page 9. If you have any questions or ideas for HAS, would like to volunteer, or would like to contribute to this newsletter please do contact any of us.

During 2017, HAS activities will include running the Bonder Scholarship competition (chair: Murat Kurt), the Pierskalla Award (chair: Mohsen Bayati, Hamsa Bastani), the Best Student Paper Competition (chair: Greg Zaric and Sarang Deo), organizing the HAS track at INFORMS Healthcare 2017 in Rotterdam (chair: Mehmet Ayvaci), the HAS track at the INFORMS Houston 2017 meeting (chair: Lisa Maillart), publishing two issues of the HAS Newsletter, and increasing practitioner engagement with the help of the Practitioner Engagement Committee. In addition, Tinglong Dai (our Communications and Outreach Coordinator) is working on increasing HAS’s social media presence. Again, we welcome your suggestions and volunteering in these activities.

I encourage you to visit the updated HAS website and look for our LinkedIn community page. A personal goal of mine as the 2017 President of HAS is to increase accessibility of HAS’s activities to its membership, and help develop a “continuous succession plan”, so that we have a “deep bench” of people ready to lead the HAS. The health of a society, such as the HAS, can be ascertained by how easy it is to find the next group of leaders – and in that respect the HAS’s community’s talent pool is unlimited!

I welcome your comments and suggestions. Hope to see you at Rotterdam @ INFORMS Healthcare 2017!

Happy summer!

Vikram Tiwari
President, Health Applications Society of INFORMS
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology & Biomedical Informatics
School of Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Director, Surgical Analytics, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Professor of Management, Owen Graduate School of Management
Nashville TN 37212, USA
HAS Activities at 2016 INFORMS Annual Meeting

The Society once again had an active presence at the 2016 INFORMS annual meeting. The cluster had a total of 71 sessions, some of which were co-sponsored with other societies. There were also several contributed sessions related to healthcare. These sessions occupied four parallel tracks on all four days of the conference.

The sessions covered a wide range of problems in three broad areas: healthcare policy, medical decision making, and healthcare operations. In addition to many excellent presentations by academics, HAS sessions included also several talks delivered by practitioners. Some of the medical institutions represented include Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Geisinger Healthcare, and Harvey L. Neiman Health Policy Institute, Mayo Clinic, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.
2016 Bonder Scholarship for Applied Operations Research in Health Services

As announced at the HAS business meeting, the 2016 Bonder Scholarship was awarded to Alba Rojas-Cordova from Virginia Tech. Alba’s dissertation work focuses on an important component of pharmaceutical R&D: Group sequential adaptive designs for Phase 3 clinical trials. Adaptive trials allow for early termination due to benefit or futility, but complicate resource planning. Alba develops stochastic dynamic programming and system dynamics models to study the value of adaptive trials in terms of drug’s misclassification risk, time-to-market, and revenue. Alba’s work, performed in close collaboration with industry partner AstraZeneca, provides key insights on the impact of interim analyses. Alba is advised by Ebru Bish and Niyousha Hosseinichimeh.

Many thanks to this year’s award committee, Murat Kurt (Chair), Carri Chan, Julie Higle, and Nan Kong for their efforts.

About the Bonder Scholarship: The purpose of the Bonder Scholarship for Applied Operations Research in Health Services is to promote the development and application of operations research analyses to health care design, delivery, and operations. The scholarship provides funding of $5,000 to support the development of promising new researchers in healthcare operations research.
2016 Pierskalla Award

As announced at the HAS business meeting, the 2016 Pierskalla Best Paper award goes to Hamsa Bastani and Mohsen Bayati for their paper, “Online Decision-Making with High-Dimensional Covariates.”

The runner-up and other three finalists were:

- **Anil Aswani, Zuo-Jun (Max) Shen, and Auyon Saddiq**, “Data-Driven Incentive Design in the Medicare Shared Savings Program” (runner-up)
- **Susan Feng Lu and Lauren Xiaoyuan Lu**, “Do Mandatory Overtime Laws Improve Quality? Staffing Decisions and Operational Flexibility of Nursing Homes” (finalist)
- **Dan Yamin, Yoku Ibuka, Alison P. Galvani, and Jeffrey P. Townsend**, “Optimal dosing of rotavirus vaccination in Japan” (finalist)
- **Turgay Ayer, Anthony Bonifonte, Can Zhang, Anne Spaulding, and Jagpreet Chhatwal**, “Prioritizing Hepatitis C Treatment in U.S. Prisons” (finalist)

Congratulations to the winners and all the finalists for this important achievement! Many thanks to John Birge (chair), Baris Ata, and Sridhar Tayur for serving on the prize committee, and to all of the judges involved.

**About the Pierskalla Best Paper Award:** The Pierskalla Award recognizes research excellence in the field of health care management science. The award includes a $1,000 honorarium for the best paper presented in a Health Applications Section sponsored session at the annual INFORMS conference. The award is named after Dr. William Pierskalla to recognize his contribution and dedication to improving health services delivery through operations research. Dr. Pierskalla is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the Anderson School at UCLA and the Ronald A. Rosenfeld Professor Emeritus at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and serves as an editor on numerous operations research journals.
Upcoming Healthcare Conferences

Many conferences of note, and of interest to the Healthcare Applications Society community, will be taking place over the summer and fall of 2017. Specifically, the INFORMS Healthcare 2017 conference will be taking place in Rotterdam on July 26-July 28. More than 400 presentations are scheduled for the conference which focuses on ‘Optimizing Operations and Outcomes’. Addressing this focus, the main themes of the conference will include Healthcare Data Analytics and Machine Learning, Medical Decision Making and Personalized Medicine, Disease and Treatment Modeling, Healthcare Operations Management, Health Information Technology and Management, Public Health and Policy Making, and Health and Humanitarian Systems. With the conference taking place in Rotterdam, a city known for its leadership in healthcare and medical sectors, there is expected to be representation from local experts from the Dutch healthcare system including the International Hospital Federation and the Dutch Ministry of Health. More information about the conference can be found at [http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/healthcare2017/](http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/healthcare2017/).

Other upcoming conferences of interest to the HAS community include:

- The ORAHS (Operational Research Applied to Health Services) 2017 Conference – Bath, UK – July 30 – August 4, 2017
- The 30th Annual OR Manager Conference -- Orlando, FL -- October 2-4, 2017
- INFORMS Annual Meeting – Houston, TX – October 22-25, 2017
- The 39th Annual North American Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making – Pittsburgh, PA – October 22-25, 2017
- AMIA 2017 Annual Symposium – Washington, DC – November 4-8, 2017
Health Applications Society Practitioner Engagement Committee Update

The Practitioner Engagement Committee was established in an effort to grow healthcare operations research practitioners’ involvement within INFORMS, and HAS in particular. The following vision summarizes four overall objectives:

– Grow the number of individuals and organizations within INFORMS and beyond, that are dedicated to improving health outcomes and care
– Establish and enhance mutually beneficial collaborations for improving health outcomes and care between academic institutions and healthcare delivery organizations
– Integrate current practice, education, and research as applied to healthcare delivery
– Create visibility around opportunities and barriers for researchers and practitioners to contribute to improved health outcomes and care

The committee consists of representatives from leading healthcare delivery organizations: Muge Capan – Christiana Care Health System; Tarun Mohan Lal, Mayo Clinic; Smriti Neogi, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital; Eric Stephens – Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Christopher Strömblad, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

If there are practitioners interested in participating in the quest for bridging the gap between theory and practice through aforementioned objectives, reach out!

Christopher Strömblad (chris.stromblad@gmail.com)
Chair, 2017 HAS Practitioner Engagement Committee
Health Applications Society Website Update

Since late 2016, the Health Applications Society, along with INFORMS, has updated the HAS website to include the following features:

- **Inclusion of a list of journals.** There are 14 journals now listed and classified into three groups: INFORMS operations journals, non-INFORMS operations journals, and health services research journals. We have also highlighted journals with an area or department dedicated to healthcare.

- **Directory.** The “Directory” now allows users to search for members of the healthcare applications society, by first name, last name, company name, or email address, or a combination of the information. The “advanced search” function also allows users to search for HAS members in a specific city, state/province, or country.

- **Discussion.** The “Discussion” tools contains all the INFORMS Connect posts specific to HAS.

- **Awards.** The “Awards” section now includes information about the HAS Student Paper Competition, in addition to the Bonder Scholarship and Pierskalla Award.

Have any ideas for improving the HAS website? Please do not hesitate to reach out to Tinglong Dai, the Communications & Outreach Coordinator of HAS, at dai@jhu.edu.
Health Applications Society Officers

2017 Officers

Vikram Tiwari (President) – Vikram.Tiwari@Vanderbilt.Edu
Lisa Maillart (Vice President) – maillart@pitt.edu
Turgay Ayer (Past President) – ayer@isye.gatech.edu
Mariel Lavieri (Treasurer) – lavieri@umich.edu
Jacqueline Griffin (Secretary) – ja.griffin@northeastern.edu
Tinglong Dai (Communications & Outreach Coordinator) – dai@jhu.edu
Sean Barnes (Council Member) – sbarnes@rhsmith.umd.edu
Eva Enns (Council Member) – eenns@umn.edu
Murat Kurt (Council Member) – murat.kurt7@gmail.com
Mustafa Sir (Council Member) – sir.mustafa@mayo.edu

2016 Officers

Turgay Ayer (President)
Vikram Tiwari (Vice President)
Diwakar Gupta (Past President)
Wen-ya Wang (Treasurer)
Jessica L. Heier Stamm (Secretary)
Dionne Aleman (Webmaster)
Sean Barnes (Council Member)
Murat Kurt (Council Member)
Pengyi Shi (Council Member)
Christopher Strömblad (Council Member)