INFORMS Health Applications Society

Fall 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 the 2nd issue of the 2017 semi-annual HAS Newsletter. In this issue we summarize the events since April 2017, including HAS’s activities at the 2017 INFORMS Healthcare Conference in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Let me begin by acknowledging Jackie Griffin (from Northeastern University) for finding time out of her extremely busy schedule to conceptualize and produce the newsletter for the second time this year. I also want to acknowledge Tinglong Dai (from John Hopkins University) for solidifying HAS’s social media presence (more on page 6).

The list of current board members and council members is on page 7. 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.

2017 has been a busy year for the HAS Board and the numerous volunteers that make the various activities possible! Thanks to Mehmet Ayvaci for organizing the HAS track at INFORMS Healthcare 2017 in Rotterdam. Thanks to Murat Kurt for running another successful Bonder Scholarship competition. Please do attend the Bonder Scholars session at Houston (MC05, October 23rd). The Pierskalla Award chairs, Mohsen Bayati and Hamsa Bastani, ran a rigorous competition. Come to SB05 on Oct 22nd to listen to the five finalists and attend the award session to find out about the Pierskalla Award winner. Last but not the least, a huge thanks to Greg Zaric and Sarang Deo for chairing the HAS’s Best Student Paper Competition. We announced the winners at the INFORMS Healthcare 2017 Rotterdam conference (more on page 4).

I will take this opportunity to pass on the baton to Lisa Maillart (University of Pittsburgh). She becomes the HAS President for 2018. We will soon hold an election to fill the position of VP-President Elect.

Do plan to attend the HAS Business Meeting at the INFORMS 2017 Meeting at Houston. We will celebrate the winners and acknowledge the contributions of the members that make HAS a vibrant society.

I welcome your comments and suggestions. Hope to see you in Houston @ INFORMS Annual Meeting 2017!

Happy fall!

Vikram Tiwari
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HAS Activities at 2017 INFORMS Healthcare Conference

At the INFORMS Healthcare Conference 2017, HAS sponsored a cluster of sessions chaired by Mehmet Ayvaci from the Jindal School of Management at the University of Texas at Dallas. In the HAS track, there were eight sessions which housed twenty-eight talks. The track covered a broad range of healthcare research topics including emergency operations, contracting, scheduling, technology, informatics, and analytics. The sessions featured a variety of approaches including optimization, empirical, experimental, economic, and qualitative methods. The diversity of topics covered and methods presented reflects the diverse skill sets of HAS members and emerging research areas.
HAS Student Paper Competition at 2017 INFORMS Healthcare Conference

The HAS Student Paper Competition winners were announced at the 2017 INFORMS Healthcare Conference. The competition was co-chaired by Sarang Deo of the Indian School of Business and Greg Zaric from the University of Western Ontario’s Ivey School of Business. The winners and finalists for the Student Paper Competition are:

1. **First place**: A Causal Tree Approach for Personalized Health Care Outcome Analysis - Guiha Wang (Advisors - Jun Li, Wallace Hopp)
2. **Second place**: Robust Defibrillator Deployment Under Cardiac Arrest Location Uncertainty via Row-and-Column Generation - Auyon Siddiq (Advisors - Max Zuo-Shen, Timothy Chan)

From right to left: Greg Zaric (co-chair HAS student competition), finalist Shan Wang along with her advisor Guohua Wan (left), and HAS President Vikram Tiwari
HAS Activities at Upcoming 2017 INFORMS Annual Meeting in Houston, TX

The Health Applications Society is organizing 55 sessions at the 2018 INFORMS Annual Meeting. Lisa Maillart from the University of Pittsburgh, the current HAS VP (and the incoming HAS president) is serving as chair of these sessions. Included within these sessions are the presentations corresponding to the finalists for the Pierskalla Best Paper Award (Sunday at 11:00am) and the finalists for the Bonder Scholarship for Applied Operations Research in Health Services (Monday at 1:30pm).

In addition to the research presentations, the Business Meeting for the Health Applications Society will take place on Monday, October 23 at 6:15pm in the Convention Center in Room 320C. We look forward to seeing you there!
Health Applications Society Social Media Update

On September 12, we launched our official Twitter account @informshas.

We live in a world in which academic scholars increasingly leverage social media to shape public discourse about various issues, particularly healthcare delivery and health policy. For a testimony of this statement, look no further at a lively online community of health economists, physicians, and journalists on Twitter, key players of which including David Cutler @Cutler_econ, Atul Gawande @Atul_Gawande, Ashish K. Jha @ashishkjha, and Elisabeth Rosenthal @RosenthalHealth. HAS, the largest professional community of OR/MS researchers dedicated to improving healthcare, should be part of that online community. The catch? It will not happen overnight. Luckily, more and more HAS members, particularly PhD students working on healthcare topics, are becoming influential on this interesting and powerful platform.

We decided to initiate the Twitter effort with a dual purpose in mind—to bring together existing HAS members on Twitter, and to encourage more HAS members to become Twitter users. Additionally, we hope our Twitter account, by showcasing expert opinions and cutting-edge research by HAS members, provides a channel for HAS to interact with other healthcare institutions with shared or similar objectives of improving healthcare delivery and policymaking.

The Twitter effort will complement our existing social media presence, especially our existing LinkedIn group (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8102689). If you are already on Twitter, please follow us @informshas. If you do not have an account yet, please join Twitter and follow us. With over 800 members, we hope to have more than 200 followers in the coming months.

The success of our Twitter account crucially depends on engaging contents from HAS community. At this point, our Twitter account automatically retweets "organic" content (i.e., no retweets) from INFORMS HAS members from a list of 17 HAS members on Twitter. To expand the list, we will collect information about HAS members on Twitter via an email survey shortly.

Have any ideas for improving the HAS Twitter account? 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)
Lisa Maillart (Vice President)
Turgay Ayer (Past President)
Mariel Lavieri (Treasurer)
Jacqueline Griffin (Secretary)
Tinglong Dai (Communications Outreach Coordinator)
Sean Barnes (Council Member)
Eva Enns (Council Member)
Murat Kurt (Council Member)
Mustafa Sir (Council Member)