

INFORMS Health Applications Society

Spring 2021 Newsletter



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

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Message from the President

Dear HAS Community,

It is an honor to serve the Health Application Society as President during 2021 and to address you formally in this role for the first time. I began my service as Vice-President/President-Elect in January of 2020, shortly before the COVID-19 Pandemic changed all of our lives. It has been a challenging time, to say the least, as I am sure it has been for many of you. Many of you may have dealt with (and continue to deal with) loss, illness, stress and anxiety over the last year. In spite of all of this, the pandemic has also presented us with immense opportunity and has brought health systems and health applications to the spotlight more than ever before. I am proud to see the innovative and efficient ways in which members of the HAS community have mobilized to aid in the modeling and analysis of the biggest public health crisis most of us will face in our lifetimes. HAS members have published studies at breakneck speed, appeared in the news, provided guidance to policy makers and supported their local communities. I am proud to be part of this society and hope that I can serve you well for the remainder of my term.

As we were not able to meet in person at INFORMS 2020, we have decided to re-introduce a second Newsletter in the calendar year. In this newsletter we would like to celebrate accomplishments and also keep you informed about future events. In the next few pages we highlight our 2020 annual award winners (Seth Bonder Scholarship and Pierskalla Best Paper Award) and also recognize our inaugural Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Award winner. We also include the announcements for the 2021 awards and encourage you to submit your nominations.

In this newsletter we also want to remind you about some upcoming events and announce some new initiatives and efforts:

- The 2021 INFORMS Healthcare Conference is coming soon, and will feature a series of HAS sponsored sessions.
- New council member Sait Tunc is working to establish a new Webinar series.
- We are soliciting applications for student liaison.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the outgoing board and council members for their service and the tremendous work they have done over the years to leave the society in excellent health. Outgoing Past-President Ebru Bish provided knowledge, support and advice to make the transition smooth. Ebru continues to serve HAS by serving as the Co-chair of the INFORMS Healthcare student paper competition. Hui Zhao completed her two-year term as communications and Outreach Coordinator and continues to serve as Co-Chair of the HAS Track for INFORMS 2021. Council members Anahita Khojandi, Osman Ozaltin, and Jagpreet Chhatwal

completed their two year terms as council members and participated in so many ways over these last two years including with leading tutorial efforts, job lightning talks for students, organizing sessions and working with our outgoing student liaisons (Amira Hijazi, Harshita Kajaria, and Zhouyang Lou). I would also like to thank Lisa Maillart who represents HAS on the Subdivisions Council of INFORMS. I am grateful that Hadi El-Amine and Sze-Chuan Suen will continue in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. I am excited to welcome our new board members, Stephen Chick (Vice-President) and Pengyi Shi (Communications & Outreach); and our new council members Jennifer Mason Lobo, Sait Tunc, and Qiushi Shen. Steve is currently working tirelessly to organize the INFORMS 2021 HAS sessions with Hui Zhao.

I am grateful for Mark Van Oyen, who as past-president will continue to guide us and whose leadership was instrumental in keeping the society healthy during these challenging times. While this newsletter contains some of our initiatives, we are still working on potential new ideas for this year, so be on the lookout for announcements from us on INFORMS connect! Lastly, I want to mention that the goal of the HAS board and council is to serve our members, and we would love to hear from you. Please contact us to let us know your comments and suggestions. Our information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Yours truly,

Maria E. Mayorga
Professor of Personalized Medicine
Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
North Carolina State University

2020 Bonder Scholarship for Applied Operations Research in Health Services

As announced at the HAS business meeting, the 2020 Bonder Scholarship was awarded to **Arielle Anderer** from the University of Pennsylvania for her research on “Adaptive learning for healthcare operations: from surrogates to bandits.” Anderer’s research advisor is Hamsa Bastani.

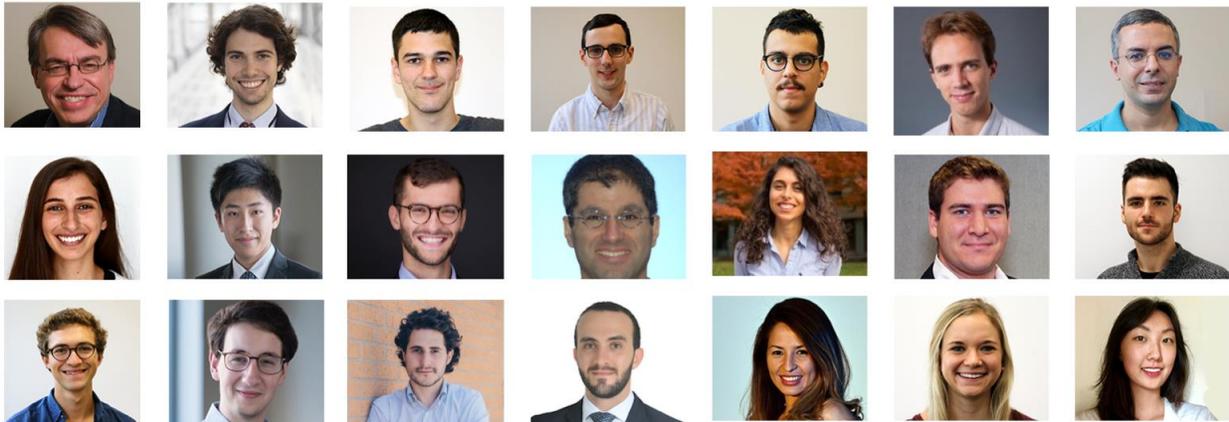
Congratulations to Arielle and many thanks to this year's award committee chair, Amin Khademi, and to the evaluation committee involved.

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



2020 Pierskalla Award

As announced at the HAS business meeting, the 2020 Pierskalla Best Paper award goes to **Dimitris J. Bertsimas, Leonard Boussioux, Ryan Cory-Wright, Arthur Delarue, Vassilis Digalakis, Alexandre Jacquillat, Driss Lahlou Kitane, Galit Lukin, Michael Li, Luca Mingardi, Omid Nohadani, Agni Orfanoudaki, Theodore Papalexopoulos, Ivan Paskov, Jean Pauphilet, Omar Skali Lami, Bartolomeo Stellato, Hamza Tazi Bouardi, Kimberly Villalobos Carballo, Holly Wiberg, and Cynthia Zeng** for their paper, “From predictions to prescriptions: A data-driven response to COVID-19 .”



The runner-up and finalists were:

- Runner up: Justin J. Boutilier and Timothy C.Y. Chan for their paper “Ambulance emergency response optimization for developing countries.”
- Finalist: Barış Ata, John J. Friedewald, and A. Cem Randa for their paper “Structural estimation of kidney transplant candidates' quality of life scores.”
- Finalist: Daniel Adelman and Kanix Wang for their paper “Optimal genetic testing of families.”

Congratulations to the winners and all the finalists for this achievement! Many thanks to co-chairs Arielle Anderer, Hamsa Bastani, and John Silverholz and to all 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, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and serves as an editor on numerous operations research journals.

2020 Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Research Excellence Award

As announced at the HAS business meeting, the 2020 Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Research Excellence Award went to **Soroush Saghafian** for significant contributions to the practice of health applications through operations research (OR) and management science (MS) modeling and methodologies.



The finalists were:

- Carri Chan from Columbia University for her paper “Preventive hospital care with an application to COVID19 management.”
- Turgay Ayer from Georgia Tech for his paper “Perspectives on data-driven practice-focused research.”

Congratulations to the winner and both finalists! Many thanks to chair Edwin Romeijn and committee members Paul Griffin, July Ivy, and Retsef Levi.

About the Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Research Excellence Award: The Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Research Excellence Award recognizes a mid-career researcher for significant contributions to the practice of health applications through operations research (OR) and management science (MS) modeling and methodologies. The award is named after Professor Sanjay Mehrotra and his wife, in recognition of Professor Mehrotra’s contributions and dedication to translating OR/MS modeling and methodology research to practice so as to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare systems, and will be presented at the Health Applications Society Business Meeting at the INFORMS annual meeting. Dr. Mehrotra is a professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences at Northwestern University, and served on the Editorial Board of numerous operations research journals.

2021 INFORMS HAS Awards and Deadlines

2021 INFORMS Health Applications Society Student Paper Competition

Committee co-chairs: Ebru Bish and Tinglong Dai

Submission deadline: February 2, 2021 (passed)

Winners will be announced at 2021 INFORMS Healthcare Conference

2021 Bonder Scholarship in Applied Operations Research in Health Services

Committee chair: Jónas Oddur Jónasson

Submission deadline: June 30, 2021

Applicants will be notified with the results of the competition before September 2021.

2021 Pierskalla Award

Committee co-chairs: Dimitris Bertsimas and Agni Orfanoudaki

Submission deadline: June 28, 2021

The winning paper will be announced at the HAS business meeting at the 2021 INFORMS Annual Meeting.

2021 Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Research Excellence Award

Committee chair: Julie Higle

Submission deadline: July 15, 2021

Up to three finalists will be selected and invited to present their work at the 2021 INFORMS Annual Meeting in a session sponsored by the Health Applications Society and devoted to the competition.

Upcoming Conference: INFORMS Healthcare 2021 Conference



INFORMS Healthcare Conference 2021

July 21-23, 2021

This year's conference will include twelve HAS-sponsored sessions including

- The 2021 INFORMS Health Applications Society Student Paper Competition session
- The Bonder Scholars Applied Research Session

For details and updates, please visit

<http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/healthcare2021/>

Coming Soon!

Launching of HAS Virtual Seminar Series

INFORMS Health Applications Society (HAS) is pleased to announce the start of an exciting virtual seminar series for better engaging our community by bringing together researchers working on healthcare operations, medical decision making, health systems and policy, and healthcare analytics.

The advisory board for the series includes Ebru Bish (University of Alabama), Stephen Chick (INSEAD), and Mark Van Oyen (Michigan).

The seminars will tentatively be monthly on Fridays.

Please join our Google Group (<https://groups.google.com/g/hasseminarseries>) or subscribe to our Mailing List (<https://forms.gle/49iDWihs5pU5RVwq6>) to receive the latest announcement on the upcoming seminars! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at hasseminarseries@gmail.com, and Twitter @informshas.

Stay tuned, and thank you for your interest from the organizing committee; Sanjay Mehrotra (Northwestern), Sait Tunc (Virginia Tech), and Qiushi Chen (Penn State).

Soliciting HAS Student Liaison

We are looking for self-driven graduate students who would like to take a leadership position working with the HAS board as a student liaison in various functions, including planning, outreach, and engagement with HAS student members through various initiatives and activities. Sample activities include (i) coordinating the HAS flash job talk session at INFORMS 2021, (ii) managing social media accounts to promote HAS activities such as the Virtual Seminar Series, (iii) reaching out to student chapters to increase awareness of HAS. We also welcome new ideas in the above functions. This will be a great opportunity for graduate students to be involved with our professional community.

Interested students are invited to apply through email to HAS.INFORMS2021@gmail.com and include in the email the following items **by May 15, 2021**:

1. A one-paragraph bio;
2. A paragraph on why you are interested in this position, and your ideas of how to better engage student members, if any;
3. Contact information (name, title, email and a phone number) of a faculty reference.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send an email to [Pengyi Shi](mailto:shy178@purdue.edu) at shy178@purdue.edu

Health Applications Society Officers

2021 Officers

Maria Mayorga (President)
Stephen Chick (Vice President/President-Elect)
Mark Van Oyen (Past President)
Sze-chuan Suen (Treasurer, 2nd year of term)
Hadi El-Amine (Secretary, 2nd year of term)
Pengyi Shi (Communications & Outreach Coordinator)
Jennifer Mason Lobo (Council Member)
Qiushi Shen (Council Member)
Sait Tunc (Council Member)

2020 Officers

Mark Van Oyen (President)
Maria Mayorga (Vice President/President-Elect)
Ebru Bish (Past President)
Sze-chuan Suen (Treasurer)
Hadi El-Amine (Secretary)
Hui Zhao (Communications & Outreach Coordinator, 2nd year of term)
Jagpreet Chhatwal (Council Member, 2nd year of term)
Anahita Khojandi (Council Member, 2nd year of term)
Osman Ozaltin (Council Member, 2nd year of term)
Amira Hijazi (Student Liaison)
Harshita Kajaria (Student Liaison)
Zhouyang Lou (Student Liaison)