INFORMS Health Applications Society
Spring 2026 Newsletter

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

Inside the Newsletter

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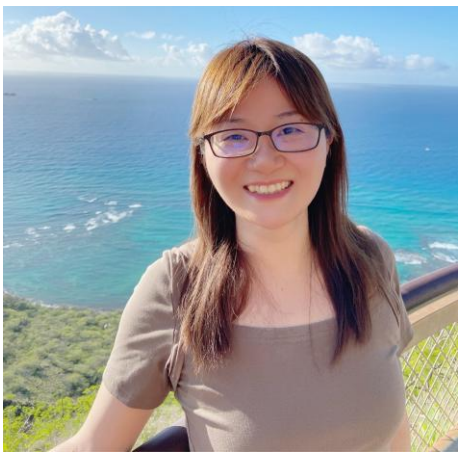
HAS Community Updates & Leadership

Message from the President

*The INFORMS HAS student liaison team recently interviewed **Dr. Pengyi Shi**, Associate Professor in the Daniels School of Business at Purdue University, and current President of INFORMS HAS.*

In an open and thoughtful conversation, Dr. Shi reflected on the experiences, decisions, challenges, and sources of support that have shaped her academic journey, research philosophy, and leadership vision for HAS. She generously shared not only the achievements and opportunities that contributed to her success, but also the difficult moments behind that journey, including the uncertainty, pressure, and persistence involved in building an academic career. Her reflections offer our members a fuller and more realistic understanding of the stories behind success: the role of mentorship, the importance of staying close to meaningful real-world problems, the courage to continue pursuing work one cares deeply about, and the patience needed to grow through both setbacks and opportunities.

Through this interview, Dr. Shi provides valuable insights for students, junior scholars, and the broader HAS community as they navigate their own paths in healthcare research.



Dr. Shi's research focuses on healthcare operations, using stochastic modeling, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and optimization to improve healthcare delivery. Her work began primarily in patient flow and has since expanded to areas including substance use treatment, criminal justice, and home-based care for elderly patients. Her interdisciplinary path, spanning applied mathematics, industrial engineering, and statistics, has shaped a flexible research mindset. Rather than being tied to one method, she emphasizes choosing the right tools to solve practically meaningful problems.

An early personal experience first drew Dr. Shi toward healthcare. In her first week of college, she suffered an arm injury that led to the discovery of a bone tumor. Despite severe pain and the need for urgent care, she experienced firsthand the difficulty of obtaining a hospital bed in an

overcrowded system. That experience stayed with her and later motivated her to use industrial engineering and operations research tools to address healthcare system challenges.

Dr. Shi also shared reflective insights on the early challenges of academic life. During her doctoral studies, she struggled with demanding mathematical coursework, but the support of her advisors helped her build a strong technical foundation. As a junior faculty member, she faced another difficult period during her third-year review, when she was warned that she might fail tenure. Although she could have shifted toward easier-to-publish, theory-driven work, she chose to continue pursuing healthcare problems she cared deeply about. With encouragement from mentors, peers, and senior faculty, she persevered and eventually found her path as an independent scholar.

Several research projects stood out in Dr. Shi's reflections. One early project on discharge management, later published in *Operations Research* and recognized with multiple awards, helped her understand how to formulate a real healthcare problem, develop rigorous methodology, and translate part of the work into hospital practice. Another major project, conducted with her PhD student, focused on community corrections and substance use disorder, where reinforcement learning was used to support decision-making in a complex service system, and the resulting work was later adopted by a collaborating agency to justify staffing needs. More recently, Dr. Shi has been working with nurse managers, hospitals, and home care agencies on an AI-enabled staffing tool, with three hospitals participating in a feasibility pilot.

As HAS President, Dr. Shi hopes to strengthen connections across students, junior faculty, senior faculty, and practitioners. She described HAS as her “home society” and highlighted several ongoing initiatives, including coffee sessions at the upcoming healthcare conference for PhD students, early-career faculty, and mid-career faculty. She also discussed the expansion of HAS online seminar series, including an international seminar series that spotlights PhD students and postdocs, as well as seminars that feature junior faculty and practitioner perspectives.

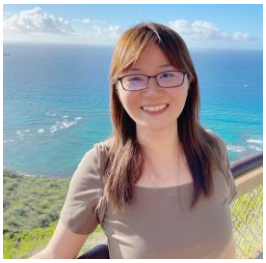
For PhD students, Dr. Shi offered two pieces of advice. First, students should embrace AI tools because they can increase productivity. At the same time, she cautioned that AI does not lower the expectations for PhD research. Instead, by saving time on tasks such as coding, AI raises the bar for originality, creativity, and critical thinking. Second, she emphasized that students must continue talking to practitioners and engaging with the people whose problems they aim to solve. AI can help organize and support that work, but it cannot replace the insight gained from being close to real-world problems.

Dr. Shi closed with an optimistic message for the HAS community. Healthcare remains one of the most important and exciting research areas, with new developments in drugs, care delivery, virtual health, and AI-enabled decision support. She encouraged the community to continue joining forces, advancing healthcare research, and working step by step toward improving a complex and often broken healthcare system.

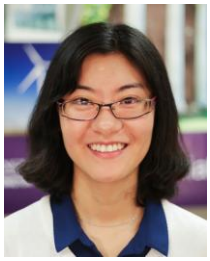
Read the Full Interview: Here

New HAS Officers

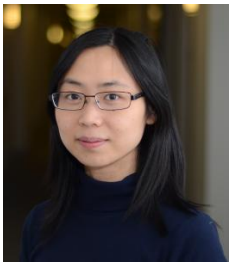
2026 Officers



Pengyi Shi
(President)



Shan Liu
(Vice President/President-Elect)



Sze-chuan Suen
(Past President)

Gizem Nemutlu
(Secretary, 1st year of term)

Gian-Gabriel Garcia
(Treasurer, 1st year of term)

Wesley Marrero
(Communications & Outreach Coordinator, 2nd year of term)

Melike Yildirim
(Council Member)

Huaiyang Zhong
(Council Member)

Holly Wiberg
(Council Member)

Hussein El Hajj
(Council Member)

Reza Skandari
(International Council Member)

Jennifer Lobo
(HAS Subdivision Council Representative)

Big thanks to…

2025 Officers

Sze-Chuan Suen (President)
Pengyi Shi (Vice President/President-Elect)
Mariel Lavieri (Past President)
Hyojung Kang (Treasurer, 2nd year of term)
Hrayer Aprahamian (Secretary, 2nd year of term)
Wesley Marrero (Communications & Outreach Coordinator, 1st year of term)
Melike Yildirim (Council Member)
Huaiyang Zhong (Council Member)
Gian-Gabriel Garcia (Council Member)
Gizem Nemutlu (Council Member)
Reza Skandari (International Council Member)
Jennifer Lobo (HAS Subdivision Council Representative)

2026 HAS Student Liaisons

- Abel Sapirstein, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Amirhossein Moosavi, University of Michigan
- Balasuriya Hasini, University of Louisville
- Sonza Singh, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Xinran Hao, University of Cambridge
- Yuewei Ling, Stanford University






Top row, left to right: Abel Sapirstein (Georgia Institute of Technology), Hasini Balasuriya (University of Louisville), Amirhossein Moosavi (University of Michigan).
Bottom row, left to right: Sonza Singh (University of Massachusetts), Xinran Hao (University of Cambridge), Yuewei Ling (Stanford University).

HAS Student Liaison-Led Activities:

X (formerly Twitter):

LinkedIn:

BlueSky:

Get Involved: Upcoming Community Activities

The Health Applications Society continues to expand opportunities for engagement, collaboration, and professional development across all career stages. We highlight several upcoming initiatives and encourage our members to participate and stay connected with the community.

INFORMS Healthcare Conference

The upcoming INFORMS Healthcare Conference will take place in July 2026, bringing together researchers and practitioners at the intersection of operations research, analytics, and healthcare. The conference offers a vibrant forum for sharing new research, engaging with the community, and building collaborations across academia, industry, and healthcare systems.
HAS will have a strong presence throughout the conference, with multiple opportunities for members to connect, present their work, and engage with the broader community.
We also encourage members to stay connected and follow updates through HAS LinkedIn communications in the lead-up to the conference.

Mentoring Sessions

HAS will organize mentoring coffee sessions designed to foster meaningful connections across career stages. Each session will be led by a dedicated mentor and tailored to a specific career stage:

- **PhD Student Session** led by Yu Ma
- **Early-Career Session** led by Qiushi Chen
- **Mid-Career Session** led by Osman Ozaltin

These sessions will provide small-group, informal settings for open discussions on career development, research trajectories, and navigating different stages of the field.
Additional details on sign-up and scheduling will be shared closer to the conference.

HAS-Sponsored Technical Sessions

HAS will sponsor six invited sessions at the INFORMS Healthcare Conference, showcasing cutting-edge research in healthcare operations, analytics, and policy. These sessions highlight the breadth and impact of work within the HAS community, with 28 presentations across themes including organ transplant policy, dynamic disease management, AI and data-driven clinical decision support, healthcare policy and value, opioid use disorder prevention and treatment, and decision science for public health interventions.
The sessions feature innovative applications of optimization, simulation, machine learning, reinforcement learning, Markov decision processes, economic modeling, and policy analysis to address timely healthcare challenges. Topics include kidney and liver transplant allocation, diabetes follow-up planning, cystic fibrosis screening, ADHD diagnosis disparities, pediatric surgery duration prediction, pneumococcal disease and HPV screening, opioid settlement allocation, housing interventions for people with opioid use disorder, epidemic surveillance, and vaccine manufacturing.

We are grateful to the session chairs—Katherine Adams, Gizem Nemutlu, Isabelle Rao, Reza Skandari, Shayan Sharifi, Carolina Vivas-Valencia, and Melike Yildirim—and to all presenters for contributing to an engaging and high-quality HAS program.

HAS Social Outing @Raleigh

Connect with fellow HAS members in an informal setting to network, reconnect with colleagues, and build new collaborations. Details will be announced soon. Follow the HAS LinkedIn page for updates.

HAS Seminar Series

The INFORMS Health Applications Society (HAS) continues its virtual seminar series, providing a platform to connect researchers and practitioners across healthcare operations, medical decision-making, health systems, and analytics. The series aims to foster collaboration, highlight emerging research, and strengthen engagement within the HAS community.

The seminar is typically held on the last Friday of every month from 1-2 PM ET.

- Learn more and view upcoming seminars:
  - https://connect.informs.org/healthapplications/has-seminar-series

- Stay connected:
  - Follow HAS on LinkedIn for announcements
  - Google Group: https://groups.google.com/g/hasseminarseries

The seminar series in 2026 is organized by Melike Yildirim (Wayne State University) and Holly Wiberg (Carnegie Mellon University).

Since its launch in 2021, the series has featured leading researchers from academia and industry, including INFORMS Fellows, award winners, and distinguished scholars in healthcare analytics. The 2026 seminar series has had a strong start, featuring presentations by Qiushi Chen (Penn State) and Sommer Gentry (New York University).

We encourage members who were unable to attend to watch the recordings available on the HAS Seminar Series webpage.

For questions or to suggest speakers, please contact: hasseminarseries@gmail.com

Listening to Our Members: HAS Seminar Series Feedback

At HAS, we believe our seminar series should evolve with the needs and interests of our community. Earlier this year, we conducted a member survey to gather feedback on seminar topics, formats, scheduling preferences, and opportunities for future engagement. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts.

The feedback reaffirmed strong support for continuing the seminar series while also highlighting opportunities to make it even more valuable. Members expressed interest in a diverse mix of methodological and application-focused presentations, opportunities for discussion and collaboration, and increased visibility for early-career researchers. We also received valuable suggestions regarding scheduling, communication, and seminar formats.

We are actively incorporating this feedback into our planning process. While not every suggestion can be implemented immediately, member input plays an important role in shaping future programming decisions and helping us better serve the HAS community.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. Your feedback helps us build a seminar series that is engaging, relevant, and responsive to the needs of researchers, practitioners, students, and educators across the health applications community.

HAS Awards and Competitions (2026)

2026 Bonder Scholarship in Applied Operations Research in Health Services

The Bonder Scholarship supports the development of promising researchers applying operations research to healthcare design, delivery, and operations.
Doctoral students building creative work with strong academic rigor and/or practical relevance at the crossroads of operations research/operations management and health care are all encouraged to apply.

- Committee Chair: Steven Shechter (steven.shechter@sauder.ubc.ca)
- Submission Deadline: June 30, 2026
- Notification of Results: September 2026

Learn more and apply:
https://connect.informs.org/healthapplications/awards/bonder-scholarship

2026 Pierskalla Award

The Pierskalla Award recognizes outstanding research in healthcare management science, with a focus on innovative applications of operations research and analytics to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes.

- Committee Chairs: Matt Baucum (matt.baucum@okstate.edu), Jeremy Watts (jeremywatts@iourology.com)
- Submission Deadline: June 15, 2026
- Award Announcement: The winning paper will be announced at the HAS Business Meeting during the 2026 INFORMS Annual Meeting.

Learn more and view submission details:
https://connect.informs.org/healthapplications/awards/pierskalla-award

2026 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 and management science.

- Committee Chair: Mariel Lavieri (lavieri@umich.edu)
- Submission Deadline: July 10, 2026
- Finalist Presentations: Up to three finalists will be selected and invited to present their work at the 2026 INFORMS Annual Meeting in a session sponsored by HAS.

Learn more and view submission details:
https://connect.informs.org/healthapplications/awards/sanjay-panna-mehrotra-award

2026 HAS Best Student Paper Competition

The HAS Best Student Paper Competition recognizes outstanding student research in healthcare applications, with a focus on work that applies operations research, analytics, and management science to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes.

- Committee chair: Hussein El Hajj and Aiqi Zhang
- Submission deadline: May 1, 2026
- Finalist Presentations: Up to four finalists will be selected and invited to present their work at the 2026 INFORMS Annual Meeting. Finalists will be evaluated based on both the quality of their research and their presentation, with awards announced during the conference.

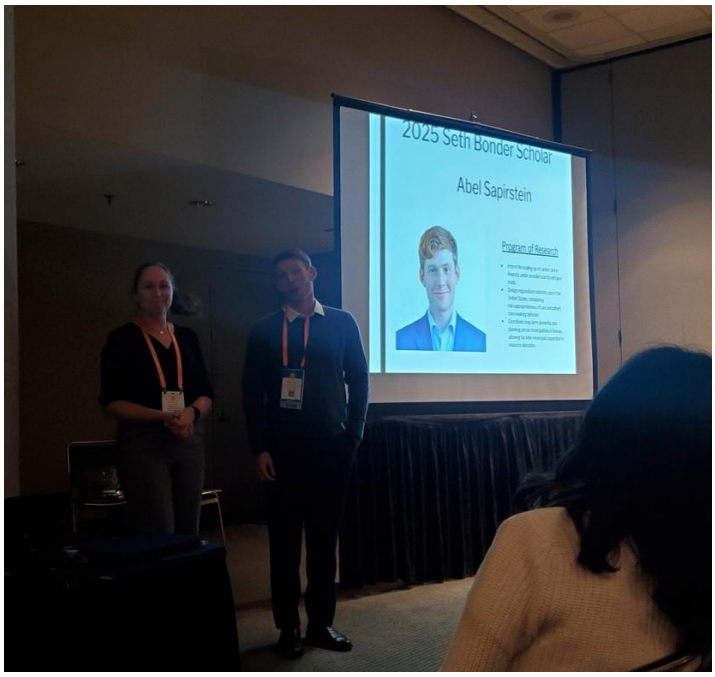
Learn more and view submission details:
https://connect.informs.org/healthapplications/awards/has-student-paper-competition

Achievements in 2025

Bonder Scholarship for Applied Operations Research in Health Services

The **Bonder Scholarship for Applied Operations Research in Health Services** recognizes outstanding doctoral students whose research advances the application of operations research to healthcare design, delivery, and operations. The scholarship supports the development of future leaders in healthcare OR/MS and was presented at the HAS Business Meeting during the 2025 INFORMS Annual Meeting.

2025 Bonder Scholar: Congratulations to **Abel Sapirstein (Georgia Institute of Technology)**, recipient of the 2025 Bonder Scholarship, for his proposal, *"Context-Aware Optimization Models for Improving Population-Level Healthcare Delivery."*



Pierskalla Award

The Pierskalla Best Paper Award recognizes outstanding research in healthcare management science and the application of operations research to improve healthcare delivery. The 2025 award recipients were announced at the HAS Business Meeting during the INFORMS Annual Meeting.

Award recipient:

- **Matt Baucum, Matt Harris, Larry Kessler, and Guanyi Lu**
  "Reducing Overdose Deaths and Mitigating County Disparities: Optimal Allocation of Substance Use Treatment Centers"

Runner-up:

- Tsai-Hsuan (Angel) Chung, Hamsa Bastani, Osbert Bastani, Jatu Abdulai, Patrick Bayoh, Lawrence Sandi, and Francis Smart
  "Improving Access to Essential Medicines in Sierra Leone via Decision-Aware Machine Learning"

Finalists:

- Sarah Yini Gao, Yan He, Zhichao Zheng, Ruijie Zhang, Sean Lam Shao Wei, and Emile Tan
  "Optimizing Initial Screening for Colorectal Cancer Detection with Adherence Behavior"

- Miao Bai, Nan Liu, and Zheng Zhang
  "Helping the Captive Audience: Advance Notice of Diagnostic Service for Hospital Inpatients"

Congratulations to the winner, runner-up, and all finalists on this achievement. We also thank the award committee chairs and all judges for their contributions.

Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Research Excellence Award

The 2025 Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Research Excellence Award, which recognizes a mid-career researcher for significant contributions to the practice of health applications through operations research and management science, was announced at the HAS Business Meeting.

Award recipient:

- **Shan Liu** (University of Washington)

Finalists:

- Mehmet A. Begen, Western University
- Chaitra Gopalappa, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Congratulations to the winner and finalists on this achievement. We also thank the award committee chair and members for their contributions.

About the Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Research Excellence Award: The Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Research Excellence Award recognizes a mid-career researcher for their significant contributions to the practice of health applications through operations research (OR) and management science (MS) modeling and methodologies. Named in honor of Professor Sanjay Mehrotra and his wife, the award celebrates Professor Mehrotra's dedication to translating OR/MS modeling and methodology research into practice, thereby improving the quality and efficiency of healthcare systems. It will be presented at the Health Applications Society Business Meeting during the INFORMS annual meeting. Dr. Mehrotra, a professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences at Northwestern University, has served on the Editorial Board of numerous operations research journals. The award includes a $1,000 honorarium.

HAS Student Paper Competition

The INFORMS Health Applications Society (HAS) Student Paper Competition continues to recognize outstanding student-led research at the intersection of healthcare and operations research/management science (OR/MS). In 2025, the competition highlighted innovative contributions addressing critical challenges in healthcare systems and policy.

Four finalists were selected to present their work in a special session at the INFORMS Healthcare Conference, where winners were announced.

2025 Awards

- First Prize: $750
- Second Prize: $500
- Finalists: $250 each

Award recipients:

- **First Place:** Sara Mohammadi (University College London)
  "The NHS Blended Payment Scheme: Incentive Issues and Optimal Reform"

- **Second Place:** Hansraj Satyam Verma (Carnegie Mellon University)
  "Data to Dose: Personalized Dosing with Data Generation and Expert Feedback"

Finalists:

- Jacob Jameson (Harvard University)
  "The Impact of Batching Advanced Imaging Tests in Emergency Departments"

- Sadegh Shirani (Stanford University)
  "Validating Counterfactual Estimations Under General Network Interference"

Congratulations to all winners and finalists on this achievement. We also thank the competition chairs and evaluation committee for their time and contributions.

HAS Distinguished Lecturers Session

One of the highlights of the 2025 Health Applications Society program at the INFORMS Annual Meeting was the **HAS Distinguished Speaker Sessions**, featuring four internationally recognized leaders whose work continues to shape healthcare operations, decision science, and analytics.

- **Carri Chan, PhD**
  Columbia Business School
- **Ebru Bish, PhD**
  University of Alabama
- **Jagpreet Chhatwal, PhD**
  Massachusetts General Hospital & Harvard Medical School
- **Timothy Chan, PhD**
  University of Toronto

The speakers showcased the breadth and impact of operations research in healthcare through talks spanning AI-enabled healthcare operations, decision analytics, health economics, optimization, public health policy, and stochastic modeling. Their presentations highlighted how rigorous analytical methods are being translated into practical solutions for improving patient care, health system performance, and public health decision-making.

Together, these sessions demonstrated the power of OR/MS to address today's most pressing healthcare challenges while inspiring new directions for research and collaboration. We extend our sincere thanks to our distinguished speakers for sharing their expertise and helping make this year's HAS-sponsored program a tremendous success.

HAS Member Spotlights

Ryan Suk, PhD, MS (Emory University)

Dr. Ryan Suk is an Assistant Professor of Health Economics at Emory University, with appointments in the Center for Data Science, School of Nursing, and the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Rollins School of Public Health. Her academic path has moved from Business Administration (BBA; Korea University, Seoul, Korea) to Economics (MS; University of Utah) and then to Public Health/Health Economics (PhD; University of Texas), with specialized training in Decision Science. She currently serves on the board of the Society for Medical Decision Making and is the lead of the Methods Core in the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network.

Ryan's research lies at the intersection of health economics, decision analytics, cancer prevention and control, and healthcare implementation. She develops methods to improve healthcare decision-making and resource allocation, with a particular focus on HPV-associated cancers, including HPV vaccination, cervical and anal cancer screening, as well as other screen-detectable cancers. Her work also advances the translation of AI and data-driven methods into decision-ready economic and operational evidence for real-world implementation.

Her research uses Business Process Model and Notation (BPMN)-informed discrete-event simulation to evaluate the operational and financial impact of introducing at-home HPV self-sampling into federally qualified health centers. By modeling existing and redesigned clinical workflows, this work helps identify the operational and economic conditions under which self-sampling can expand cervical cancer screening while remaining feasible and sustainable for safety-net clinics.

A second research stream combines causal machine learning with decision analytics to support heterogeneous and distributional cost-effectiveness analyses using claims and electronic health record data. This work examines how the value of healthcare interventions varies across patient subgroups, clinical settings, and equity-relevant populations. Her current projects, including studies of advanced palliative radiation therapy for patients with bone metastases, are supported by the American Cancer Society's Research Scholar Grant and The Donaghue Foundation's Greater Value Portfolio.

Ryan values HAS as a community where her multidisciplinary background in business, economics, public health, and decision science naturally connects with operations research, industrial engineering, and healthcare analytics. She encourages researchers with interdisciplinary interests to use HAS to build methodological bridges, learn from colleagues across fields, and identify opportunities where rigorous OR/MS methods can improve decisions for patients, providers, and health systems. Her advice is to bring the practical and value-focused perspective of health sciences while embracing the analytical strengths of OR/MS, creating research that is both methodologically rigorous and impactful in practice.

Hrayer Aprahamian, PhD (Texas A&M University)

Dr. Hrayer Aprahamian is an Associate Professor in the Wm. Michael Barnes Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Texas A&M University. He received his Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech in 2018 and joined Texas A&M later that year.

His research lies at the intersection of stochastic processes and optimization, with applications in healthcare delivery and public policy. He develops scalable optimization methods for complex, time-varying stochastic systems where performance cannot be expressed in closed form. By uncovering the structural properties of these systems, his work enables efficient computational methods that support data-driven decision-making under uncertainty. His long-term goal is to advance the theory and computation needed to optimize large-scale stochastic systems with real societal impact.

A defining feature of his research is close collaboration with practitioners. In partnership with Texas A&M University Counseling and Psychological Services, he and his collaborators developed appointment scheduling policies to improve student access to mental health services. During a semester-long pilot, counselors using the recommended policy achieved a demand-adjusted access time approximately 40% lower than counselors using the existing scheduling approach. This project demonstrates how advances in stochastic optimization can be translated into implementable policies and evaluated in real-world settings.

Dr. Aprahamian's research has received support from federal and state sponsors, including the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and the Texas Health Science Center, as well as from industry partners such as Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas. His work has appeared in leading journals, including Management Science, INFORMS Journal on Computing, INFORMS Journal on Data Science, and Stochastic Systems. His research has received numerous honors, including the NSF CAREER Award, the IEOM Young Researcher Award, the Pierskalla Award in 2017 and 2022, the JFIG Paper Competition Award, the IISE Transactions Award, the Pritsker Award, and the Paul E. Torgersen Research Excellence Award.

Dr. Aprahamian also teaches undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in optimization and has been recognized for his contributions to education. His teaching honors include the department-level Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award, the AFS College-Level Teaching Award, and the university-level Montague–CTE Scholar Award. He has also been nominated for the university-level OER Teaching Award.

Ali Hajjar, PhD (Prince Mohammed Bin Salman College of Business and Entrepreneurship)

Dr. Ali Hajjar is an Assistant Professor of Management Science at Prince Mohammed Bin Salman College of Business and Entrepreneurship (MBSC) in Saudi Arabia and a Research Affiliate at Harvard Medical School, where he completed a postdoctoral fellowship. He earned his Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, his M.S. from the University of Pittsburgh, and his B.S. from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals.

Dr. Hajjar's research integrates operations research, medical decision-making, health economics, and public health policy to develop stochastic optimization and simulation models that improve preventive care and chronic disease management. His work asks how health systems can make prevention decisions that are both analytically rigorous and tailored to individual patient risk.

One research stream focuses on personalized cancer screening for patients with multiple chronic conditions. In Management Science, he optimized breast cancer screening strategies for women with diabetes, producing policy insights that challenged existing clinical practice. This work contributed to the successful renewal of the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET) breast cancer consortium, whose models inform U.S. cancer screening guidelines.

A second research stream examines liver cancer surveillance using large-scale microsimulation models. His work at Harvard Medical School has addressed surveillance strategies for hepatocellular carcinoma after hepatitis C cure, including studies published in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology and the Journal of Hepatology. This research received the Best of The Liver Meeting Award at AASLD's 2021 Liver Meeting and has helped inform questions surrounding surveillance eligibility, duration, and cost-effectiveness. He also developed the Liver Cancer Simulator, a publicly available decision-support tool that translates simulation results into individualized estimates of liver cancer risk and surveillance benefit.

Dr. Hajjar's research has been supported through collaborations involving the National Institutes of Health, the American Cancer Society, and the U.S. Department of Defense. At MBSC, he co-founded the Healthcare Transformation & Innovation Center, supporting research and policy initiatives aligned with Saudi Vision 2030.

He values HAS as a professional home for researchers committed to both methodological rigor and real-world impact. His advice to early-career and interdisciplinary researchers is to engage actively—attend sessions, volunteer, organize events, and build connections. He believes HAS is a welcoming community where meaningful collaborations emerge and where rigorous OR/MS research can ultimately improve patients' lives.

AmirHossein Moosavi, PhD (University of Michigan)

Dr. Amirhossein Moosavi is a Michigan Data Science Fellow at the University of Michigan. His research sits at the intersection of operations research, data science, and healthcare delivery, where he develops data-driven models to help health systems make better decisions under uncertainty. He earned his Ph.D. in Management Science from the University of Ottawa, specializing in operations research, dynamic programming, and learning-based optimization.

His research combines predictive modeling, simulation, optimization, and machine learning to improve scheduling, capacity planning, resource allocation, and clinical operations, with publications in journals including Production and Operations Management. A recent project developed a deep learning-assisted appointment scheduling framework that integrates deterministic optimization with convolutional neural networks to capture complex uncertainty while remaining computationally scalable.

Beyond methodological research, Amirhossein leads applied healthcare operations projects through the Center for Healthcare Engineering and Patient Safety. In collaboration with Michigan Medicine, he co-led the redesign of perinatal care patient pathways by guiding a multidisciplinary team in developing a discrete-event simulation model and an interactive dashboard for clinical stakeholders. The resulting insights have informed care pathway redesign at Michigan Medicine, and the dashboard is now being used at the state level to support planning and policy discussions.

The INFORMS Health Applications Society has played an important role in Amirhossein's professional development. Through HAS, he has connected with researchers who share a commitment to applying operations research and analytics to meaningful healthcare problems. In particular, he has widened his network through the HAS International Seminar Series, an initiative he co-led. The society has helped him better understand the breadth of health applications research, from methodological advances to implementation-focused studies, and has provided opportunities to learn from senior scholars, exchange ideas, and identify potential collaborations. Amirhossein's advice to students and early-career researchers is to use HAS as both a professional community and a source of feedback. Attending sessions, asking questions, volunteering, joining committees, and reaching out to researchers with shared interests can all lead to meaningful professional connections. Researchers can also use this community to share in-progress projects and receive invaluable feedback from experts. For those working at the boundary of operations research, data science, and healthcare, HAS offers a valuable space to learn the field, understand emerging problems, and find collaborators who care about both technical quality and practical impact.