
INFORMS HEALTH NEWSLETTER

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and the Management Sciences*

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Officers of the INFORMS *Health Applications Section*

<p>President: Amy Wilson Division of Health Services Research and Policy University of Minnesota 420 Delaware Street SE, MMC 729 Minneapolis, MN 55455 E-mail: arwilson@umn.edu</p> <p>Office Term: 01/01/2004 - 12/31/2004</p> <p>Vice President / President Elect: Allen Holder Department of Mathematics Trinity University 715 Stadium Drive San Antonio, TX 78212 E-mail: aholder@trinity.edu</p> <p>Office Term: 01/01/2004 - 12/31/2004</p> <p>Secretary / Newsletter Editor: Murray Côté Department of Health Services Research, Management and Policy University of Florida 101 S. Newell Drive, Room 4144 Gainesville, FL 32610 E-mail: mjcote@ufl.edu</p> <p>Office Term: 01/01/2004 - 12/31/2004</p> <p>Treasurer: Julie Ivy School of Business University of Michigan 701 Tappan Street Ann Arbor, MI 48109 E-mail: jsimmons@umich.edu</p> <p>Office Term: 01/01/2004 - 12/31/2004</p>	<p>Council: Gregory Zaric Richard Ivey School of Business University of Western Ontario 1151 Richmond Street N London, ON N6A 3K7 E-mail: gzaric@ivey.uwo.ca</p> <p>Term Expires: 12/31/2004</p> <p>Liam O'Neil Policy Analysis and Management Cornell University N132 MVR Hall Ithaca, NY 14853 E-mail: lo22@cornell.edu</p> <p>Term Expires: 12/31/2005</p> <p>Xuanming Su Department of Operations, Information, and Technology Stanford University 518 Memorial Way Stanford, CA 94305 E-mail: xuanming@stanford.edu</p> <p>Term Expires: 12/31/2005</p> <p>Mark Isken School of Business Administration Oakland University Rochester, MI 48309 E-mail: isken@oakland.edu</p> <p>Term Expires: 12/31/2006</p> <p>Arielle Lasry Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering University of Toronto 5 Kings College Road Toronto, ON M5S 3G8 Email: arielle@mie.utoronto.ca</p> <p>Term Expires: 12/31/2006</p>
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Officers of the INFORMS *Health Applications Section* (continued)

Committee Chairs:

Bonder Prize Committee:

George Miller
Altarum
P.O. Box 134001
Ann Arbor, MI 48113
Email: george.miller@altarum.org

Pierskalla Prize Committee:

Edwin Romeijn
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
University of Florida
303 Weil Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611
Email: romeijn@ise.ufl.edu

Nominating Committee:

Michael Carter
Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
University of Toronto
5 King's College Road
University of Toronto
Toronto, ON M5S 3G8
E-mail: carter@mie.utoronto.ca

The Lighter Side of Health Care Management Science



**Somewhere in Halifax,
former HAS president undertakes landscaping**

Past Presidents of the INFORMS *Health Applications Section*

<p>John Blake Department of Industrial Engineering Dalhousie University 5269 Morris Street, Room 208 Halifax, NS B3J 1B6 E-mail: john.blake@dal.ca Term Expired: 12/31/2003</p> <p>H. David Sherman Accounting Group Northeastern University 404 Hayden Hall Boston, MA 02115 E-mail: h.sherman@nUNET.neu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/2002</p> <p>Liam O'Neill Policy Analysis and Management Cornell University N132 MVR Hall Ithaca, NY 14853 E-mail: lo22@cornell.edu Term Expired: 12/31/2001</p> <p>Doug Samuelson InfoLogix, Inc. 8711 Chippendale Ct Annandale, VA 22003 E-mail: dsamuel@seas.gwu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/2000</p> <p>Sandra Potthoff Department of Health Care Management University of Minnesota 321 19th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55455 E-mail: Sandra.J.Potthoff-1@tc.umn.edu Term Expired: 12/31/1999</p>	<p>Yasar A. Ozcan David G. Williamson, Jr., Institute for Health Studies Virginia Commonwealth University P.O. Box 980203 Richmond, VA 23298 E-mail: ozcan@hsc.vcu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/1998</p> <p>David L. Zalkind Department of Management Science George Washington University 710 21st Street NW, Suite 206 Washington, DC 20052 E-mail: dlz@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/1997</p> <p>Vicki Smith-Daniels Department of Management Arizona State University P.O. Box 874006 Tempe, AZ 85287 E-mail: vicki.smith-daniels@asu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/1996</p> <p>Farrokh Alemi The College of Nursing and Health Sciences George Mason University 4400 University Drive Fairfax, VA 22030-4444 E-mail: falemi@mason.gmu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/1995</p>
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Notes from the Annual Business Meeting: Atlanta

In a record turnout, almost 50 intrepid HAS members braved the very moderate central Georgia weather to attend the October 20, 2003 *Health Applications Section's* Annual Business Meeting in Atlanta. Along with fabulous wine and cheese, the ever-popular Minnesota-based door prizes, and a pair of spontaneous door prizes from Pitty Pat's Porch (downtown Atlanta), we enjoyed the second annual presentation of the Bonder Scholarship and the fourth annual presentation of the Pierskalla Award.

Bonder Scholarship:

For the second annual award, 14 applications were received. Incoming HAS president, Amy Wilson praised the quality and diversity of the applications. The award was presented to Mr. Stephen Resch of Harvard University for "Optimal Dynamic Response to Concurrent Tuberculosis and Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis Epidemics."

Pierskalla Award:

Amy Wilson also presented the 2003 Pierskalla Award. Amy thanked the people who had submitted papers and the members of the committee that had judged them. Honorable mention went to Marion Rauner, Sally Brailsford, and Steffen Flessa for their paper *The Use of Discrete-Event Simulation to Evaluate Strategies for the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Developing Countries*. The winners of the fourth Pierskalla competition were Edwin Romeijn, Ravi Ahuja, Jim Dempsey, and Arvind Kumar for their paper *A Column Generation Approach To Radiation Therapy Treatment Planning Using Aperture Modulation*. Edwin, Ravi, James, and Arvind were all on hand to receive the award from Bill Pierskalla.

Treasurer's Report:

According to Allen Holder, the HAS is in good financial standing, with nearly a \$7,000 balance at the end of year 2003. Further, Allen noted that HAS has moved to an electronic (rather than regular mail) distribution of the newsletter. Also, brief discussion to increase the annual dues to \$10 was approved. The dues increase was necessary given the ongoing expenses associated with the HAS awards and annual business meetings.

Secretary's Report:

Murray Côté reported on the status of the HAS membership.

Election Results:

The results of the election for section officers were announced. Congratulations to:

- Amy Wilson, incoming president;
- Allen Holder, incoming vice president and president elect for 2005;
- Julie Ivy, treasurer;
- Murray Côté, secretary / newsletter editor; and
- Mark Isken and Arielle Lasry, board members.

Announcements, Administration, and Other Business:

Mike Carter and John Blake reminded the attendees of the upcoming joint CORS/INFORMS meeting in Banff, Canada and the annual INFORMS meeting in Denver. Volunteers were solicited for session chairs and paper presenters.

Allen Holder led a brief discussion on the feasibility of joint session listings at the Denver INFORMS meeting.

Amy Wilson led a brief discussion on suggested revisions to guidelines for the Pierskalla Award including the selection of judges and requirements for award submissions.

Yasar Ozcan described the current state of the journal *Health Care Management Science*. For 2004, the journal will be in its seventh volume with the prospect of publishing six issues a year.

Mike Carter volunteered to serve as a one-man nominating committee for the 2005 officers.

George Miller volunteered to chair the Bonder Scholarship.

Edwin Romeijn volunteered to chair the Pierskalla Award.

The “Mystery Door Prizes”

Ravi Ahuja, Jim Dempsey, Myron Hatcher, and Yasar Ozcan were the lucky recipients of the ever-popular Minnesota-based door prize (it’s pickles, doncha know?) while Brad Jones and Steven Shechter were the lucky recipients of drinking vessels from Pitty Pat’s Porch of Atlanta.

Incoming President's Message

This time last year, John Blake was announcing (finally) the arrival of summer in Halifax. Unfortunately, summer has not yet come to Minneapolis even though I am writing this in mid-June, but it is still time for the *Health Applications Section* newsletter.

I appreciate being given the opportunity to serve as HAS chair for 2003-2004. I have been hanging out in the HAS room at INFORMS meetings almost exclusively since I was a graduate student, both because the research focus on improving health care reflects my own interests and because I find the environment stimulating and welcoming. It has thus been a privilege and a great opportunity for me to participate in the organization of the section.

Every year at the INFORMS meeting appears to bring increased attendance at HAS sessions and the business meeting. (I must point out that this is a mixed blessing because more people at the business meeting mean that we each have a decreased chance of winning a door prize.) In Atlanta, we had 10 sponsored sections and three contributed sections. Thank you to all the session chairs and speakers for making the HAS track a compelling set of talks!

The business meeting in Atlanta was very well-attended, and a happy occasion as it was the scene of the awarding of the Pierskalla Best Paper Prize and the Bonder Scholarship for Research in Health Services. In addition to recognizing excellent research and scholarship, these awards have increased HAS visibility within INFORMS. The winners of the fourth Pierskalla competition are H. Edwin Romeijn, Ravindra K. Ahuja, James F. Dempsey, and Arvind Kumar for their paper *A Column Generation Approach To Radiation Therapy Treatment Planning Using Aperture Modulation*. Honorable mention went to Marion Rauner, Sally Brailsford, and Steffen Flessa for their paper *The Use of Discrete-Event Simulation to Evaluate Strategies for the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Developing Countries*. The winner of the second Bonder scholarship competition, chosen from 14 applicants was Stephen Resch, a student at Harvard University. Thank you to Edwin Romeijn and George Miller for volunteering to chair the 2004 competitions!

The INFORMS annual meeting is not the only place to meet up with HAS members or hear talks about operations research in health care. Health applications are a growing presence at INFORMS international meetings. Yasar Ozcan organized a health care track with over 40 talks at the EURO/INFORMS Joint International Meeting in Istanbul in 2003. Mike Carter and John Blake organized 13 sessions in a health care track at the CORS / INFORMS Joint International Meeting in Banff in May 2004. Both conferences were fun, well-attended, interesting, and set in stunning locales.

Here is the point at which I thank all the people who made the last year good for HAS and to whom I have turned for help. First, I thank John Blake, the outgoing chair, for his strong leadership and for answering my five million questions about how HAS works. I thank this year's officers, Allen Holder (Chair-Elect), Murray Côté (Secretary / Newsletter Editor), and Julie Ivy (Treasurer), and council members Greg Zaric, Xuanming Su, Liam O'Neil, Mark Isken, and Arielle Lasry. Thank you to Mike Carter for chairing the nominating committee and being extremely helpful in general.

I look forward to seeing everyone again this fall in Denver.

Amy Wilson, HAS President

Incoming Vice President's Message

Howdy from Texas!

It's late July in San Antonio, and parking spots are no longer valued by their proximity to where you want to go but rather on the amount of shade they provide. Interestingly, the rising temperatures correlate with the number of emails in my HAS folder, and it is clear that the HAS continues to be an active section of INFORMS. We are sponsoring 11 sessions at the upcoming meeting in Denver, with a wide range of topics that sweep across the discipline. Thanks to the session organizers and speakers for their participation. The competition for the Bonder Scholarship is heavy, with 12 strong applications. The judging committee is lead by George Miller and is moving towards a decision by early August. Furthermore, while the submission deadline for the Pierskalla award isn't until the beginning of September, we already have 2 submissions. The consistent draw of strong conference speakers and talented award candidates clearly demonstrates the visibility of the section, and I'm happy with the HAS's success.

The vice chair's responsibilities were daunting when I was first elected, but as the year progressed, I found that I had a better understanding of the section's many facets. I'm grateful for the help provided by our current and past chairs, Amy Wilson and John Blake. The strong leadership of previous years is one of the HAS's strengths, and I hope that the section continues to flourish with my service next year. If there is any way I can help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Take care.

Al Holder, HAS Vice President

Outgoing Chair's Message

Spring has finally returned here in Halifax. It's been quite a momentous year in terms of natural disasters. In 2003-2004, we experienced the great northeastern blackout, a force two hurricane, and the largest single one day snowfall ever recorded in the city (98 centimeters or about 38.5 inches). All three managed to shut the city down for at least a couple of days, and in the case of the hurricane, we were without power for seven days. There's nothing like living without power for several days to remind one of our society's reliance on technology and the need to be prepared for contingencies. Nevertheless, spring has now come back with its promise of renewal. As I write this, it is bright and sunny (23 degrees Celsius or about 73 degrees Fahrenheit), not a cloud in the sky, and the harbour is once again filled with large cruise ships.

2003-2004 was also a momentous year for the Health Application Section. Amy Wilson, our current chair, did a wonderful job organizing sessions at the fall meeting in Atlanta. George Miller, once again, ran the Bonder Prize competition with a degree of organization and skill that is second to none. Amy, in addition to her duties to organizing the conference sessions, ran yet another superb Pierskalla Prize competition. I would also like to thank all HAS members who have served on the executive, organized a session, or given a paper at the conference over the past year.

As I leave the executive of the HAS, I would like to say that it has been a wonderful experience. I have had the opportunity to work with fine people and to see some first rate research. It has been my pleasure to serve on review committees for both the Pierskalla Prize and the Bonder Prize, where I have been consistently impressed with the quality of the submissions. I believe that the level of interest in the section's two prizes shows how vibrant our community of research is. Finally, let me say how thrilled I am with the level of participation and scientific vigour evident in our conferences. HAS is a strong research group and also a warm and welcoming community.

Thank you for your help and support over the years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Blake', written in a cursive style.

John Blake, 2003 HAS President

The Bonder Scholarship for Research in Health Services

The *Health Applications Section* of INFORMS invites applications from qualified doctoral students for the **Bonder Scholarship for Research in Health Services**. Doctoral students, particularly those at the beginning of their programs, with an interest in the application of management sciences and operations research techniques to issues in health care design, delivery, or operations are encouraged to apply.

Objectives: The purpose of the Bonder Scholarship is to promote the development and application of operations research techniques to health care design, delivery and operations. The scholarship provides funding of \$5,000US to support the development of highly qualified individuals and promote the interchange of ideas and the dissemination of health services research knowledge in conjunction with INFORMS.

The Award: The Bonder Scholarship consists of a grant of \$4,000 which is intended to provide income support and tuition reimbursement for a promising young researcher. In addition, the award winner will be eligible for up to \$1,000 of travel funding to support participation in Health Application Section activities at the annual INFORMS conference. The tenure of the award is one year.

Selection Criteria: The award will be granted on the basis of excellence, innovation, preparation, and probability of candidate's success. Each candidate should submit three copies of the following materials: a curriculum vita, two letters of support, and a brief, two-page (single-spaced) summary of his or her proposed program of research. Candidates will be evaluated on the quality of their preparation to undertake a program of research in the field of health care. The proposed program of research will be judged according to its potential for practical and theoretical contribution as well as likelihood of successful completion.

Eligibility: All members of INFORMS currently pursuing doctoral studies are eligible. Applications from US and international members are welcome.

Application Process: Candidates are asked to forward their applications by July 1, 2004 to the chairman of the Bonder Scholarship review committee, Dr. George Miller. Dr. Miller's contact information is provided on the following page.

Application Process (continued):

Dr. George Miller
The Altarum Institute
P.O. Box 134001
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-4001
USA

Phone: (734) 302-4640
Fax: (734) 302-4991
E-mail: george.miller@altarum.org

Notification: All applicants will be notified by September 15, 2004 of the results of the competition.

Background: Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Seth Bonder has been a leader in applying operations research to planning national defense, and a pioneer in applying operations research methods to re-engineering health care delivery.

In his work with the military, Dr. Bonder used operations research to model telemedicine distant from care providers and medical expertise. He extended these contributions to support reengineering healthcare in the civilian sector. He has led the firm that he founded, Vector Research Inc., into the field of medical operations research, and created many of the applied aspects of that discipline.

Dr. Bonder has made major contributions to the operations research profession. He has served as president of the Operations Research Society of America and the Military Operations Research Society, and vice president of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Patriotic Service Award from the Secretary of the Army, and the George E. Kimball Medal. His colleagues recognized him by electing him to the National Academy of Engineering.

2003 Winner: Stephen Resch of Harvard University for “Optimal Dynamic Response to Concurrent Tuberculosis and Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis Epidemics.”

The William Pierskalla Best Paper Award

The *Health Applications Section* of INFORMS sponsors an annual competition for the **Pierskalla Award**, which 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 each fall INFORMS conference. The award is named after Dr. William Pierskalla to recognize his contribution and dedication to improving health services research and delivery through operations research. Dr. Pierskalla is currently a professor at the Anderson School at UCLA and serves as an editor on numerous operations research journals.

Eligibility: Any paper presented in a session sponsored by the *Health Applications Section* during the INFORMS fall annual meeting is eligible for the award. However, to be considered for the award, a full paper must be submitted by September 1, 2004 to the Vice President of the *Health Applications Section*. The paper must be presented at the conference to receive the award, although the judging is based on the written paper. The paper can be a working paper, a submitted paper, or a published paper. If desired by the authors, the winning paper will be published in *Health Care Management Science* if it has not been published or is not under review elsewhere.

Judging: Papers are judged by a panel of four representatives from the *Health Applications Section*. Each paper is judged on its 1) contribution to operations research/management science in health care, 2) readability, clarity and organization of the paper, 3) technical content and scope relative to the length of the paper, and 4) originality.

The panel judging the papers reserves the right not to award a prize in any given year.

Application Process: Contact the current Vice President of the *Health Applications Section* to submit your abstract and to present the results in a *Health Applications Section* sponsored session. Four copies of the written paper must be submitted to the Vice President by September 1, 2004 to be considered for the award. If there are multiple authors, they must state in writing how they wish the honorarium to be distributed at the time the written paper is submitted.

Applicants are asked to forward their submission by September 1, 2004 to the Dr. Allen Holder, Vice President of the *Health Applications Section*. Dr. Holder's contact information is provided on the following page.

Application Process (continued):

Allen Holder
Department of Mathematics
Trinity University
715 Stadium Drive
San Antonio, TX 78212

Phone: (210) 999-8241
Fax: (612) 999- 8264
E-mail: aholder@trinity.edu

2003 Winner: H. Edwin Romeijn, Ravindra K. Ahuja, James F. Dempsey, and Arvind Kumar for “A Column Generation Approach To Radiation Therapy Treatment Planning Using Aperture Modulation.”

Abstract: Radiation therapy seeks to deliver a prescribed radiation dose to cancerous cells while sparing healthy tissues, giving rise to a very large-scale optimization problem. This talk describes a new formulation which incorporates practical treatment delivery aspects, a column generation approach for solving the problem, and results of the application of this approach to clinical data.



The 2003 winners of the William Pierskalla Best Paper Award pictured from left to right: Amy Wilson (Vice President, HAS), Ravi Ahuja, Jim Dempsey, Arvind Kumar, Edwin Romeijn, and Bill Pierskalla.

Report from the Editor of *Health Care Management Science*

The Year in Review

The year 2003 marked another successful period in the history of *Health Care Management Science* (published by Kluwer Academic Publishers). Along with the successful publication of Volume 6, first three issues of Volume 7 are already published while 4th issue of the volume is scheduled for November 2004. This marks another remarkable accomplishment for HCMS sponsored by intellectual capital of INFORMS *Health Applications Section* members.

While we at *HCMS* are proud of these accomplishments, our eye is still on the future. One of our major goals for this year (yes, again) is to be listed in the Institute for Scientific Information® (ISI) database. ISI has been considering *HCMS* for some time. To speed up the process, please e-mail them at journals@isninet.com and recommend that *Health Care Management Science* be included in their database. *HCMS* is a top-quality journal and deserves this recognition. Also, be sure to make note that *HCMS* is indexed and abstracted in ABI Inform, EconLit, Journal of Economic Literature, SCOPUS, Statistical Theory and Method Abstracts, and Medline.

In addition, we are looking for new special issue editors. Anyone wishing to become special issue Editor, please contact Yasar A. Ozcan at ozcan@vcu.edu to discuss the details. This really counts on promotions!!!

HCMS Publication Schedule for 2004

Health Care Management Science, Volume 7 No 1 (February 2004)

- Designing Editorial: Cost and Efficiency within Health Care Systems. M. Tavakoli & H.T.O. Davies.
- Performance of U.S. Teaching Hospitals: A Panel Analysis of Cost Inefficiency. M..D. Rosko.
- Inpatient – Outpatient Cost Shifting in Washington Hospitals. D.L. Friesner &R. Rosenman.
- Addressing Bed Costs for the Elderly: A New Methodology for Modeling Patient Outcomes and Length of Stay. M.H. Adele, S.I. McClean and P.H. Millard
- The ‘Nice’ Approach to Technology Assessment: An Economics Perspective. S. Birch & A. Gafni.
- Use of Quality Adjusted Life Years and Life Years Gained as Benchmarks in Economic Evaluations: A Critical Appraisal. C. Evans, M.Tavakoli and B. Crawford.
- Measuring case-mix complexity of tertiary care hospitals using DRGs. H. Park

Health Care Management Science, Volume 7 No 2 (May 2004)

- The decomposition of cost efficiency: an empirical application of shadow cost function model to Dutch general hospitals. J.L.T. Blank & E. Eggink.
- Analysis of the expenses linked to hospital stays: how to detect outliers. C. Beguin & L. Simar.
- Estimating procedure times for surgeries by determining location parameters for the lognormal model. W.E. Spangler, D.P. Sturm, L.G. Vargas & J.H. May.
- A modeling framework for optimal long-term care insurance purchase decisions in retirement planning. A. Gupta & L. Li.
- Reallocation of beds to reduce waiting time for cardiac surgery. R. Akkerman & M. Knip.
- Modeling the spread of annual influenza epidemics in the U.S.: the potential role of air travel. R.F. Grais, J.H. Ellis, A. Kress, G.E. Glass.
- Applying a binary linear program to model re-screening women who test positive for C.trachmotis infection. G. Tao, B.K. Abban, G. Chen & K.L. Irwin.

Health Care Management Science, Volume 7 No 3 (August 2004)

- The effective use of a summary table and decision tree methodology to analyze very large healthcare datasets. D. Sibbritt & R. Gibberd.
- Determinants of health expenditure growth of the OECD countries: jackknife resampling plan estimates. A. Okunade, M.C. Karakus & C. Okeke.
- Making explicit the implicit knowledge assets in healthcare: the case of multidisciplinary teams in care and cure environments. N. Wickramasinghe & G. Davison.
- DRG-based cost minimization models: applications in a hospital environment. S. Suthummanon & V.K. Omachonu.
- Stochastic dominance and medical decision making. M. Leshno & H. Levy.
- Using models and data to support optimization of the military health system: a case study in an intensive care unit. B.J. Masterson, T.G. Mihara, G. Miller, S.C. Randolph, M.E. Forkner & A.L. Crouter.
- Improvement potential in Danish elderly care. J.L. Hougaard, D. Kronborg & C. Overgård.
- Explaining the diffusion of Medicaid home care waiver programs using VPRS decision rules. M. Kitchener, M. Beynon & C. Harrington.

Health Care Management Science, Volume 7 No 4 (November 2004)
EURO/INFORMS Special Issue (augmented by two regular submissions)

- Longitudinal analysis of efficiency in multiple output dialysis markets. H. Ozgen & Y.A. Ozcan.
- Strategies for hospitals to increase market capture of inpatient perioperative services. L. O'Neill & F. Dexter.
- The role of patients in designing health information systems: the case of applying simulation techniques to design an electronic patient record (EPR) interface. K.J. Leonard.
- Using Coxian Phase-Type Distributions to Identify Patient Characteristics for Duration of Stay in Hospital. A.H. Marshall & S.I. McClean.
- Breast Cancer Screening Services: Trade-offs in Quality, Capacity, Outreach, and Centralization. E.D. Gunes, S.E. Chick & O.Z. Aksin.
- Development of a Decision Support Model for Scheduling Clinical Studies and Assigning Medical Personnel. M. Grunov, H-O. Gunther & G. Yang.
- Markov Chain Modeling of Initiation and Demand: The Case of the US Cocaine Epidemic. J.P. Caulkins, D.A. Behrens, C. Knoll, G. Tragler & D. Zuba.
- Simulating the Allocation of Organs for Transplantation. D. Thompson, L. Waisanen, R. Wolfe, R. M. Merion, K. McCullough & A. Rodgers.

Contents and abstracts of all volumes of *Health Care Management Science* are available from the Kluwer web site at www.kluweronline.com/issn/1386-9620.

Call for Referees for *Health Care Management Science*

To ensure the continued success of *Health Care Management Science*, manuscript referees are needed. Nominate, or volunteer yourself or a colleague, for this important activity. (Included in this newsletter is a form used to submit a candidate for consideration.) A broad spectrum of expertise and viewpoints is needed and useful to maintain and develop this vibrant journal. Critical review of submitted articles ensures quality of publication. A greater number of referees can also improve publication turn around times. Be a sport, do something fun and intellectually stimulating. Get the jump on the latest research and results! Fill out the form and send it to the editors.

Professor Yasar A. Ozcan
Department of Health Administration
P.O. Box 980203
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA 23298-0203
USA

Phone: (804) 828-5224
Fax: (804) 828-1894
E-mail: ozcan@vcu.edu

or

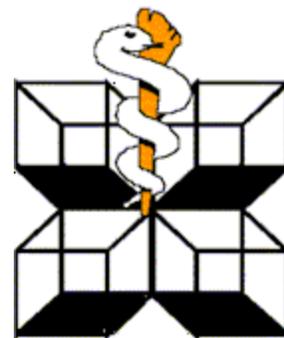
Professor Peter C. Smith
Centre for Health Economics
University of York
York YO10 5DD
England

Phone: +44-1904-433 779
Fax: +44-1904-433 759
E-mail: pcs1@york.ac.uk



Health Care Management Science

Referee Profile



Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address (where to mail correspondence):

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Fax number: _____

Please list your specialty areas of expertise and/or interests in OR/MS and health care applications:

Specialty #1: _____

Specialty #2: _____

Specialty #3: _____

Specialty #4: _____

Specialty #5: _____

Comments/Suggestions for *HCMS*:

The *Health Applications Section* List Serve

The *Health Applications Section* has a new list serve!

As always, the intent of the list serve is to stimulate interaction and facilitate communication among the section members. Section members may use the list serve as a forum for discussing general questions about health care, health care management science, academic job postings, scholarship and conference announcements, and whatever else may be of interest. All section members are encouraged to subscribe to the list serve. The list serve's e-mail address is:

health-app-section@list.informs.org.

The HAS list serve web site is:

www.informs.org/mailman/listinfo/health-app-section.

You can visit the URLs to change your membership status or configuration, including unsubscribing, setting digest-style delivery or disabling delivery altogether (e.g., for a vacation), and so on.

Subscriber information

- About once a month, each subscriber will receive a reminder about your list.informs.org mailing list memberships. The reminder will include your subscription information and how you can use it to change your subscription or unsubscribe from a list.
- You can also modify your subscription via e-mail by sending a message to:

health-app-section-request@list.informs.org

with the word "help" in the subject or body (don't include the quotes), and you will get back a message with instructions.

- You must know your password to change your options (including changing the password, itself) or to unsubscribe.
- If you forget your password, don't worry; your monthly reminder will tell you what all your list.informs.org mailing list passwords are, and how to unsubscribe or change your options. There is also a button on your options web page that will e-mail your current password to you.
- If you have questions, problems, comments, etc, send them to:

mailman-owner@list.informs.org

Conference Announcements

WESTERN MULTICONFERENCE 2005 FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH SCIENCES SIMULATION

Wyndham New Orleans at Canal Place Hotel, New Orleans, LA
January 23-27, 2005

This annual conference, sponsored by the Society for Computer Simulation International (SCS), is a forum for modeling and simulation in the health sciences. Application areas include health services studies, pharmacometrics, drug and device development, medical practice, modeling epidemics, physiology, and methodology. Practitioners of modeling are encouraged to submit proposals based on their applications and demonstrations of computer simulation techniques. A sampling of applications presented in the past is indicated in the general sessions list shown below. Programs from the 2001 and 2002 conferences are available at:
www.sla.purdue.edu/academic/soc/andersonj/anderson.html.

TYPICAL SESSION

Health Services
Pharmacodynamics
Drug Development
Bioengineering
Physiology
Medical Practice
Medical Decision Making
Microbiological Processes
Epidemiology
Health Policy
Methodology and Software
Tutorials

SAMPLE APPLICATION TOPICS

Resource Allocation, Care Assessment
Dose Response, Synergy, Toxicology
Clinical Trials, Population Analyses
Cardiac Devices, Regeneration
Pulmonary Function, Endocrine Systems
Cancer Survival, Obesity Control
Telemedicine, Screening, Treatment
Genetic Control, AIDS Pathogenesis
Disease Transmission, Treatment Costs
Nutrition, Risk Evaluation, Smoking Cessation
Discrete Modeling, Madonna plus Stella
Comparing Modeling Platforms, Philosophies

TARGET DATES

- Draft papers due to Chair by October 29, 2004
- Notification of Acceptance will be made ASAP
- Camera-ready paper due to SCS by November 28, 2004

General Chair:

James G. Anderson, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907
E-mail: andersonj@soc.purdue.edu
Tel: (765) 494-4703
Fax: (765) 496-1476

General Co-Chair:

Meyer Katzper, Ph.D.
CDER/FDA
2 Locks Pond Court
Rockville, MD 20854
E-mail: katzper@cder.fda.gov
Tel. (301) 827-2564
Fax: (301) 827-2531

Conference Announcements (continued)

INFORMS ANNUAL MEETING DENVER 2004 ◆ October 24-27, 2004 ◆ Adam's Mark Hotel





The Premier Conference for OR/MS Professionals offers you...

- Networking: make connections with colleagues, share knowledge and ideas
- Top industry and academic speakers
- Two great receptions: Sunday Welcome Reception, Monday General Reception
- Tutorials, exhibits and software demonstrations
- Extensive tracks on "hot topic" – the BEST in OR/MS
- Practitioners – special tracks and sessions

BACK TO OR ROOTS

Operations research was born in the same incubator as computer science, and it has spawned many new disciplines, such as systems engineering. Although people from many disciplines routinely use OR, we are still in a state of affairs where scientific researchers, engineers, and others do not understand basic OR tools and how these tools can help them.

Disciplines ranging from finance to bioengineering are the beneficiaries of what we do--we take an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving. Our strengths are modeling, analysis and algorithm design. We provide a quantitative foundation for a broad spectrum, from economics to medicine, from environmental control to sports, from e-commerce to computational geometry. We are both producers and consumers because the mainstream of OR is in the interfaces.

Our theme looks at the past for inspiration but also looks at the present and the future to see how to use our strengths to become involved in critical development in science, business and society, where OR has not yet become a watchword. We believe that OR people should pour more energy into reaching and educating the engineers and chemists and biologists and physicists about what we can do for them.

The conference program will reflect the belief that our roots make OR a means for creating and enhancing science and technology. We invite you to know the OR profession in its breadth and depth, in its decades of service to science and society, in its future of bringing excellence to our world.

Manuel Laguna
General Chair

All photos courtesy of DenverMetro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences.

Additional detail on the 2004 INFORMS Annual Meeting is available online at:
www.informs.org/Conf/Denver2004/

Conference Announcements (continued)



ORAHS *The European Working Group on* **Operational Research Applied to Health Services**

The Euro Working Group of Operational Research Applied to Health Services (ORAHS) is one of the Euro Working Groups installed by Euro - the European Association of Operational Research Societies. ORAHS represents a network of persons involved in the application of systematic, quantitative analysis in support of planning and management in the health services sector. The group has at present 112 members from 22 countries, mainly in Europe but also with 17 from overseas. Membership is open to persons with an interest in applying systematic, quantitative analysis to planning and management problems in the health area. The group meets every year, each summer, for one week in a different European host country. More information on ORAHS can be found at the website: www.orahsweb.soton.ac.uk.

In 2005, the meeting will take place in Southampton, UK. The organizer is Sally Brailsford from the Management School, University of Southampton. More information on the meeting can be obtained by e-mail at: scb@soton.ac.uk.

IFORS HAWAII 2005
Triennial

July 11-15, 2005
Hilton Hawaii Village
Beach Resort & Spa
Honolulu, Hawaii

The Preeminent International Conference in OR/MS in One of the World's Most Beautiful Locations

The IFORS Triennial 2005 Conference will bring operational researchers from around the globe together in one of the world's most beautiful locations. We invite you to join your colleagues for the pre-eminent international conference in our field, offering an intensive scientific program covering the full spectrum of topics in operational research.

The conference organizing and program committees together represent 17 countries and all five continents, bringing the research, applications and perspectives of their areas of the world to this truly international forum.

Sharing of ideas, knowledge and experience is the primary goal of the conference and of IFORS itself. These exchanges take place not only during the formal scientific program, but also informally in hallways, over cups of coffee and at social events. The IFORS Triennial 2005 technical program and many of the conference social events will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa.

The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) is proud to host IFORS 2005 in a spectacular location - Honolulu, Hawaii. We invite you to experience all the beauty of Hawaii while you participate in this premier OR meeting.

Jeffrey L. Arthur
Chair, Organizing Committee

Martine Labbé
Chair, Program Committee

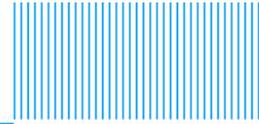
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Additional detail on the IFORS Triennial 2005 Conference is available online at:

www.informs.org/Conf/IFORS2005/

Other Announcements

Kluwer is pleased to announce the publication of the following new book
(www.wkap.nl/prod/b/1-4020-7797-1)



Books » Handbook on Data Envelopment Analysis

Handbook on Data Envelopment Analysis

edited by

William W. Cooper

University of Texas at Austin, USA

Lawrence M. Seiford

*Dept. of Industrial & Operations Engineering, The University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, USA*

Joe Zhu

Dept. of Management, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA, USA



Book Series: [INTERNATIONAL SERIES IN OPERATIONS RESEARCH
AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCE](#) : Volume 71

Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) has grown into a powerful quantitative, analytical tool for measuring and evaluating performance. It has been successfully applied to a host of different entities engaged in a wide variety of activities in many contexts worldwide. DEA's "data-oriented" approach has been widely used in evaluating the efficiency and productivity of many different kinds of entities engaged in many different kinds of activities in many different contexts. DEA opens up possibilities for use in cases which have been resistant to other approaches because of the complex and often unknown nature of the relationships between their many activities. In addition, DEA is used to provide new insights into activities and entities that have previously been evaluated by other methods.

This *Handbook* has been developed as a comprehensive reference for researchers, students and practitioners. It reflects the state-of-the-art in Data Envelopment Analysis. It also represents a milestone in the progression of a continuously advancing methodology, which has extensive utility. Written by experts - who are the major research contributors to the topics covered - the *Handbook* is organized in three sections. The first section is a comprehensive examination of the basic DEA models and DEA extensions. The second section consists of a collection of coverages by persons experienced in applications to the areas of banking, education, sports, retailing, health care, etc. The final section is a review of current DEA software technology.

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