INFORMS HEALTH NEWSLETTER

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Table of Contents

Officers of the INFORMS Health Applications Section 2
Past Presidents of the INFORMS Health Applications Section 6
News from the Annual Business Meeting: Denver 7
Messages from the Incoming President 9
Kudos: Membership Awards, Promotions, and Publications 10
The Bonder Scholarship for Research in Health Services 14
The William Pierskalla Best Paper Award 16
Report from the Editor of Health Care Management Science 18
The Health Applications Section List Serve 24
Conference Announcements 25
Other Announcements 28
Memorial for Sophie Lapierre 29
## Officers of the INFORMS *Health Applications Section*

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<tr>
<th><strong>President:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Vice President / President Elect:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Allen Holder</td>
<td>Murray Côté</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Mathematics</td>
<td>Department of Health Services Research, Management and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinity University</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>715 Stadium Drive</td>
<td>101 S. Newell Drive, Room 4144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Antonio, TX  78212</td>
<td>Gainesville, FL  32610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:aholder@trinity.edu">aholder@trinity.edu</a></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:mjcote@ufl.edu">mjcote@ufl.edu</a></td>
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<td>Julie Simmons Ivy</td>
<td>Edwin Romeijn</td>
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<td>Ross School of Business</td>
<td>Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering</td>
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<td>University of Michigan</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin - Madison</td>
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<tr>
<td>701 Tappan Street</td>
<td>3162 Engineering Centers Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor, MI  48109</td>
<td>1550 Engineering Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:jsimmons@umich.edu">jsimmons@umich.edu</a></td>
<td>Madison, WI  53706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Term: 01/01/2005 - 12/31/2005</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:romeijn@ise.ufl.edu">romeijn@ise.ufl.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oguzhan Alagoz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering</td>
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<td>University of Wisconsin - Madison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison, WI  53706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:alagoz@engr.wisc.edu">alagoz@engr.wisc.edu</a></td>
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<td>Term Expires: 12/31/2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Isken</td>
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<td>School of Business Administration</td>
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<td>Oakland University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rochester, MI  48309</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:isken@oakland.edu">isken@oakland.edu</a></td>
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<td>Term Expires: 12/31/2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arielle Lasry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Kings College Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toronto, ON  M5S 3G8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:arielle@mie.utoronto.ca">arielle@mie.utoronto.ca</a></td>
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<td>Liam O’Neil</td>
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<td>Policy Analysis and Management</td>
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<td>Cornell University</td>
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<tr>
<td>N132 MVR Hall</td>
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<td>Ithaca, NY  14853</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:lo22@cornell.edu">lo22@cornell.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Xuanming Su</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Operations, Information, and Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanford University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>518 Memorial Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford, CA  94305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:xuanming@stanford.edu">xuanming@stanford.edu</a></td>
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Committee Chairs:

**Bonder Prize Committee:**

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

**Pierskalla Prize Committee:**

Wanpracha Chaowalitwongse  
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:  
And the winner is …

While on vacation in Denver in July 2004, Murray Côté had the opportunity to exercise his probability and decision-making skills in the real world. Thanks to a “Christmas in July” promotion by Kool 105 FM (Mile High Hits of the ’60s and ’70s), Murray won a Zenith C32V37 32” HDTV Integrated TV. From left to right in the picture are Ron Ash (Kool 105 DJ), the TV, and Murray. The only issue remaining, of course, is how to get the TV back to Florida.
Incoming Officers of the INFORMS *Health Applications Section*

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<td>Andrew Schaefer</td>
<td>Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Industrial Engineering</td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1048 Benedum Hall</td>
<td>5 Kings College Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Toronto, ON M5S 3G8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA 15261</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:arielle@mie.utoronto.ca">arielle@mie.utoronto.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: (412) 624-5045</td>
<td>Term Expires: 12/31/2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:schaefer@ie.pitt.edu">schaefer@ie.pitt.edu</a></td>
<td>Gino Lim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL: <a href="http://www.engr.pitt.edu/~schaefer/">http://www.engr.pitt.edu/~schaefer/</a></td>
<td>Department of Industrial Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Term: 01/01/2006 - 12/31/2006</td>
<td>University of Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E211 Engineering Building 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Houston, TX 77204</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: (713) 743-4194</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: (713) 743-4190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:ginolim@uh.edu">ginolim@uh.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Term Expires: 12/31/2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer:</td>
<td>Sherry Oh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanpracha Chaovalitwongse</td>
<td>Department of Operations Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering</td>
<td>Haskayne School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey</td>
<td>University of Calgary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96 Frelinghuysen Road, CoRE Building</td>
<td>2500 University Drive NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piscataway, NJ 08854-8018</td>
<td>Calgary, Alberta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: (732) 445-5469 Fax: (732) 445-5467</td>
<td>Canada T2N 1N4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:wchaoval@rci.rutgers.edu">wchaoval@rci.rutgers.edu</a></td>
<td>Tel: (403) 220-5685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Term: 01/01/2006 - 12/31/2006</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:sherry.oh@haskayne.ucalgary.ca">sherry.oh@haskayne.ucalgary.ca</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Term Expires: 12/31/2008</td>
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</table>
Committee Chairs:

**Bonder Prize Committee:**

Eric Wolman  
School of Enineering  
George Mason University  
7806 Hidden Meadow Terrace  
Potomac, MD 20854  
Tel: (301) 983-0698  
E-mail: eric.wolman@erols.com

**Pierskalla Prize Committee:**

Eva Lee  
School of Industrial and Systems Engineering  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Atlanta, GA 30332-0205  
Phone: (404) 894-4962  
Fax: (404) 894-2301  
Email: evalee@isye.gatech.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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Term Expires</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Holder</td>
<td>Department of Mathematics, Trinity University, 715 Stadium Drive, San Antonio, TX 78212</td>
<td>12/31/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Wilson</td>
<td>Division of Health Services Research and Policy, University of Minnesota, 420 Delaware Street SE, MMC 729, Minneapolis, MN 55455</td>
<td>12/31/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Blake</td>
<td>Department of Industrial Engineering, Dalhousie University, 5269 Morris Street, Room 208, Halifax, NS B3J 1B6</td>
<td>12/31/2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. David Sherman</td>
<td>Accounting Group, Northeastern University, 404 Hayden Hall, Boston, MA 02115</td>
<td>12/31/2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liam O'Neill</td>
<td>Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University, N132 MVR Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853</td>
<td>12/31/2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Potthoff</td>
<td>Department of Health Care Management, University of Minnesota, 321 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455</td>
<td>12/31/1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasar A. Ozcan</td>
<td>David G. Williamson, Jr., Institute for Health Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University, P.O. Box 980203, Richmond, VA 23298</td>
<td>12/31/1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicki Smith-Daniels</td>
<td>Department of Management, Arizona State University, P.O. Box 874006, Tempe, AZ 85287</td>
<td>12/31/1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farrokh Alemi</td>
<td>The College of Nursing and Health Sciences, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030-4444</td>
<td>12/31/1995</td>
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INFORMS Health Newsletter 6 Fall 2005
Notes from the Annual Business Meeting: Denver, 2004

The HAS Business meeting was the host to a record audience of 53. The meeting was a little different this year in that it was the celebration of two lives that have greatly contributed to HAS.

We celebrated the retirement of Bill Pierskalla with words from Eric Wolman, who cited Bill as “one of the World’s major constructive forces.” Harvey Greenberg, Ron Gue, Narayan Bhat, and Leon Lasdon also spoke to commemorate Bill’s retirement. Liam O’Neill presented Bill with the mystery gift, a beautiful set of bookends. Bill expressed his gratitude for having “great people to work with doing great work.” He emphasized that the HAS area is fundamental to the future of this country, “healthcare has got to be done better than we are doing it.”

We also celebrated the life of Sophie Lapierre, a treasured member of the HAS, who passed away after a battle with cancer in the fall of 2004. She was an extremely talented and energetic individual, and she is sorely missed. Sophie was a tenured associate professor in Mathematics and Industrial Engineering at the École Polytechnique in Montréal, Canada. Her research married healthcare and logistics, she is known for her work on the location of mammography clinics. A week prior to her death, she completed a book on her battle with breast cancer.

A fellowship has been established in her name at École Polytechnique de Montréal. Donations can be sent to:

Sophie Lapierre Fellowships c/o
Stephane Pallage
700B Champagneur
Outremont, QC H2V 3P8
Canada

or to:

Fondation de Polytechnique,
École Polytechnique de Montréal
C.P. 6079 succursale Centre-ville
Montréal, QC H3C 3A7
Canada

Checks should be written to “Fondation de Polytechnique” in memory of Sophie Lapierre. A brief memoriam is included at the end of this newsletter.

**Bonder Scholarship:**

George Miller presented the third annual Bonder Scholarship to Mr. Steven Shechter of the University of Pittsburgh for his project, “Markov Decision Processes and HIV Therapy Planning.”
**Pierskalla Award:**

Edwin Romeijn presented the 2004 Pierskalla Award. The winners of the fifth Pierskalla competition were Panos M. Pardalos, Wanpracha Chaowalitwongse, Leonidas D. Iasemidis, J. Chris Sackellares, Deng-Shan Shiau, Paul R. Carney, Oleg A. Prokopyev, and Vitaliy A. Yatsenko for their paper, “Seizure Warning Algorithm Based On Optimization And Nonlinear Dynamics.”

**Amendment to Bylaws:**

We voted to change the bylaws to reflect that elected council members serve two-year terms. We also discussed amended the bylaws to change the responsibilities of the Vice Chair to include scheduling the HAS sponsored sessions for the INFORMS annual meeting.

**2004 Election Results:**

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

- Allen Holder, incoming president;
- Murray Côté, incoming vice president and president elect for 2005;
- Edwin Romeijn, treasurer;
- Julie Ivy, secretary / newsletter editor; and
- Oguzhan Alagoz, board members.

**2005 Election Results:**

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

- Murray Côté, incoming president;
- Julie Ivy, incoming vice president and president elect for 2006;
- Wanpracha Chaowalitwongse, treasurer;
- Andrew Schaefer, secretary / newsletter editor; and
- Gino Lim and Sherry Oh, board members.

**Announcements, Administration, and Other Business:**

The attendees were reminded of the CORS meeting in Halifax, Canada, the SMDM Meeting in San Francisco and the annual INFORMS meeting in New Orleans. Volunteers were solicited for session chairs and paper presenters.

George Miller volunteered to chair the Bonder Scholarship.

Wanpracha Chaowalitwongse volunteered to chair the Pierskalla Award.

Purdue University has established a foundation on the engineering of healthcare delivery and is hiring industrial engineers to work with the center.
The “Mystery Door Prizes”

Mehmet Demirci, David Huang, and Tiffany Radcliff were the lucky recipients of the ever-popular Minnesota-based door prize (it’s prize-winning pickles).

Incoming President’s Message

The year has passed quickly, fast enough that it hardly seems possible to have already served the preponderance of my time as HAS chair. The visibility of our section is growing, with Bill Pierskalla and Seth Bonder focusing on health care in plenary sessions in Denver. Indeed, Bill Pierskalla made the bold prediction that members of the US congress will loose their positions over health care issues if the rampant expenditures are not held in check. I agree with this comment, and it is clear that if the US does not more appropriately manage its escalating health care costs, then we will spend ourselves into difficult economic territory. The time is ripe for the “Science of Better” to swoop in and save the national economy (faster than a speeding bullet and such). No doubt that the work undertaken by the members of the HAS will grow in importance.

In section news, it was with mixed emotions that the HAS celebrated the retirement of Bill Pierskalla. While we celebrate his long and talented career, we will miss his continued service. The Bonder scholarship has 12 strong applications, and the challenging task of selecting a winner is being guided by the capable hands of George Miller. The HAS owes George a deep gratitude for his continued guidance in this post. As I write this, its a full 3 weeks before the Pierskalla deadline and we already have 2 submissions for the award. It promises to be good a competition. We have 14 sessions scheduled for the upcoming conference in New Orleans, all of which where organized by next year’s chair, Murray Côté. Murray and I have pressed the organizing personnel to put us in a larger venue this fall, as we have filled the small rooms of the previous two conferences to capacity. This is yet another indicator that the work we are doing is important and timely.

The Optimization Society is organizing their first conference and is highlighting how optimization aids health care, medicine and biological research. Many members of the HAS are playing a role in organizing this conference, and if so inclined, please consider speaking. The conference is in San Antonio from February 3-5, 2006.

I want to personally thank two members of the HAS. First, John Blake asked (coerced?) me to help the HAS some 6 years ago. It started with refereeing for the Pierskalla award and managing the web page, then came treasurer, and finally vice-chair and chair. He often wrote blunt emails dictating why I should help, and I appreciated his candor. Maybe he found a sucker, but it was difficult to say no. Now that my service is nearly over, I want to thank John for getting me involved, for aiding the HAS has been one of the more enjoyable parts of my career. Second, Murray Côté has been a wonderful colleague. His upbeat attitude and ceaseless humor are always welcome. The HAS is in for quite a ride next year.

--

Allen Holder
Kudos: Membership Awards, Promotions, and Publications

**Jeffrey Cochran**, Arizona State University, was awarded a 2005 – 2007 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Details follow:

Banner Health (Twila Burdick, Investigator) and Arizona State University (Dr. Jeffery Cochran, Co-Investigator) have been awarded a 2005-2007 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), part of the US Department of Health and Human Services. The grant, entitled “Banner Health / ASU Partnership in Patient Safety” is for $600,000. The focus of the grant is to improve the behavior of Emergency Departments (EDs), perhaps the most visible part of a hospital to the public, using “whole hospital thinking.” Tools including queuing, flow balance equations, and multivariate regression are used as well as a process redesign of great potential called “Door to Doc.”

Project Description:
Long waits and back ups in hospital emergency departments (EDs) put patients at risk. Our overall aim is to reduce patient risk using a patient flow process called “Door-to-Doc” (D2D). This process improves patient care by reducing the time patients wait to see an ED physician and by speeding the process of moving ED patients who need to be admitted to the most appropriate inpatient (IP) nursing unit. Our specific hypothesis is that we can generalize D2D to improve patient care at all Banner Health EDs. The diversity of patient population and business in the eight Banner hospitals involved in this program provides a “living laboratory” for implementing and evaluating D2D as a safe practice.

We have four specific aims in this project:
1. While implementing and refining D2D for the different Banner hospitals, we will develop guidelines so EDs can adapt D2D for their specific facility populations and business.
2. As a patient safety improvement effort, we will collect and evaluate the impact of D2D as a safe practice at each Banner ED.
3. No ED functions in isolation. Backups in admitting ED patients to appropriate nursing units originate in the nursing units, not the ED itself. We will use simple quantitative methods (that do not rely on sophisticated computing) to determine the size and business parameters at which D2D is most effective and will make these tools available as generic elements of our toolkit.
4. D2D requires changes in the way physicians, nurses, management and staff work. We will develop training tools, techniques, monitoring and assessment aids to help hospital staff make the transition to D2D.

**Linda V. Green**, the Armand G. Erpf Professor at Columbia Business School, was elected an INFORMS Fellow at the 2004 INFORMS Conference in Denver. The Fellow Award recognizes members who have made significant contributions to the advancement of operations research and the management sciences, such contributions including service to the professional field and to INFORMS. Her research, which has focused on the development and application of mathematical models of service system, has resulted in numerous publications in the major journals including Operations Research, Management Science, and The Journal of Applied Probability. Her early path-breaking work led to the development of a model for the dispatching and allocation of emergency vehicles which became the foundation for a patrol car allocation model that is used by many major cities in the U.S., as well as in other countries. More recently,
she has been the author of numerous publications on service systems with time-varying arrivals. Her current focus is on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of operational policies in hospitals. Specific projects include identifying ways to alleviate emergency room overcrowding and the development of operational strategies for more efficient use of major diagnostic equipment such as MRIs.

Professor Green is a co-founder and co-director of the Columbia Alliance for Healthcare Management, a unique partnership of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Mailman School of Public Health and the Business School of Columbia University dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary research and education in healthcare management. She has been a consultant for both private and public sector organizations. She has served in many administrative positions at both Columbia and in the major professional societies and is currently the Department Editor for Public Sector Applications for the journal Management Science.

Edward H. Kaplan, the William N. and Marie A. Beach Professor of Management Sciences at the Yale School of Management, and Professor of Public Health at the Yale School of Medicine, has been elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, one of the highest honors in the fields of medicine and health. Professor Kaplan is one of 65 new members and five foreign associates announced today by the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Established in 1970, the Institute of Medicine is one of four organizations that make up the National Academies. It serves as a national resource for independent research and recommendations on health issues. Its members make a commitment to devote a significant amount of volunteer time as members of IOM committees, which engage in a broad range of studies on health policy issues.

Kaplan, who is only the second professor from the Yale School of Management to be elected to the Institute of Medicine, is an operations research and statistics expert who studies problems in public policy and management. His recent research has focused on counter-terror topics such as the tactical prevention of suicide bombings, bioterror preparedness, and response logistics in the event of a smallpox or anthrax attack. These studies have influenced national and international bioterror policy, and his work on smallpox was awarded the 2003 Koopman Prize of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) Military Applications Society.

Kaplan has also conducted award-winning research that evaluates the effectiveness of HIV prevention programs, including New Haven’s now-famous needle exchange among others, while developing new mathematical models for the study of HIV transmission and prevention. His honors include the 2002 INFORMS President’s Award recognizing work that advances the welfare of society, the 1994 Lanchester Prize for the best publications in the operations research literature, and the 1992 Franz Edelman Award for management science achievement.

In addition to the Institute of Medicine, Kaplan is an elected member of another arm of the National Academies, the National Academy of Engineering. He is one of only 27 people to be an elected member of both.
Lisa Maillart, assistant professor of Operations at the Case Western Reserve University’s Weatherhead School of Management, has been chosen by the Weatherhead School of Management as its first award winner of the Spotlight Series Prize for Women’s Scholarship. The prizes are funded through the Spotlight Series Endowment, established in 1989 by the Mather Centennial Celebration Committee of the Flora Stone Mather Alumnae Association. The income from the fund is to be used to “spotlight the creative, scholarly process experienced by the faculty and students throughout the University by supporting a lecture series with emphasis placed on the work of women faculty and students.”


Steven Shechter was recently awarded a dissertation grant, “Optimizing when to start and switch HIV therapy”, from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality supports dissertation research undertaken as part of an academic program to earn a research doctoral degree. Through this program, AHRQ seeks to expand the number of researchers who address the Agency’s mission to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans.

Xuanming Su from Stanford University (currently on the faculty at University of California Berkeley), was a finalist for the 2004 Dantzig Dissertation Award for his dissertation entitled “Essays on Patient Choice.”
New additions for some of the HAS members

James David Blake was born to John and Angela Blake on September 13, 2004.

Ridge Allen Holder was born to Leanne and Allen Holder on March 23, 2005.
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, 2006 to the chairman of the Bonder Scholarship review committee, Eric Wolman. Eric’s contact information is provided on page 5.
Application Process (continued):

**Notification:** All applicants will be notified by September 15, 2006 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.
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, 2006 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, 2006 to the Dr. Julie Simmons Ivy, Vice President of the Health Applications Section. Dr. Ivy’s contact information is provided on page.
Application Process (continued):

Julie Simmons Ivy  
Ross School of Business  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Phone: (734) 647-9542  
E-mail: jsimmons@umich.edu
HCMS: The Year in Review

The year 2004 marked another successful period in the history of *Health Care Management Science* (now published by Springer). Along with the successful publication of Volume 7, first three issues of Volume 8 are already published while 4th issue of the volume is completed and scheduled for print in November 2005. 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 ISI database. ISI has been considering HCMS for some time, and Springer is after this goal. To speed up the process, please e-mail them (journals@isinet.com) and recommend that *Health Care Management Science* be included in their database. HCMS is a top-quality journal and deserves this recognition, especially for our non-US readership. Also, be sure to make note of 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 always looking for a new special issue editors. Anyone wishing to become special issue Editor, please contact Yasar A. Ozcan (ozcan@vcu.edu) to discuss the details. This really counts on promotions! For example, there will be a special issue for the papers presented in INFORMS Hong Kong Conference during June 25-28, 2006.

**HCMS Publication Schedule, 2005**

*Health Care Management Science, Volume 8 No 1 (February 2005)*

- Explaining Source of Payment Differences in U.S. Cesarean Rates: Why Do Privately Insured Mothers Receive More Cesareans than Mothers who are not Privately Insured?  
  *D. Grant*

- Improved Allocation of HIV Prevention Resources: Using Information about Prevention Program Production Functions.  
  *G.S. Zarig, M.L. Brandeau and V. de Angelis*

- Engineering the Economic Value of Two Pediatric Combination Vaccines.  
  *S.H. Jacobson, E.C. Sewell and T. Karnani*

- Ambulatory care and orthopedic capacity planning.  
  *G. Mould*

- Modeling Patient Flows Using a Queuing Network with Blocking.  
  *N. Koizumi, E. Kuno and T.E. Smith*
A method for detecting runs of good and bad clinical outcomes on Variable Life-Adjusted Display (VLAD) charts.

*C. Sherlaw-Johnson*

Health and Economic Impacts of an HIV Intervention in Out of Treatment Substance Abusers: Evidence from a Dynamic Model.

*A. Richter and B. Loomis*

Health Care Management Science, Volume 8 No 2 (May 2005)

Collection and preparation of sensor network data to support modeling and analysis of outpatient clinics.

*M.W. Isken, V. Sugumaran, T. J. Ward, D. Minds and W. Ferris*

Mathematical models for the early detection and treatment of colorectal cancer.

*P.R. Harper and S.K. Jones*

Hospital cost flexibility in the presence of many outputs: a public-private comparison.

*P-Y. Crémieux, P. Ouellette, F. Rimbaud and S. Vigeant*

Quantifying effect of a hospital’s caseload for a surgical specialty on that of another hospital using multi-attribute market segments

*F. Dexter, R.E. Wachtel, M-W. Sohn, J. Ledolter, E.U. Dexter, and A. Macario*

Assessing and using the multiple correlated components of the burden of disease in decision-making in health care.

*R.C. Bailey, M-J-Y. Lin, and H. Krakauer*

The cost efficiency and clinical quality of institutional long-term care for the elderly.

*J. Laine, M. Linna, A. Noro and U. Häkkinen*

Ranking the ‘Balance’ of State Long-Term Care Systems: A Comparative Exposition of the SMARTER and CaRBS Techniques.

*J.M. Beynon and M. Kitchener*

Mathematical Modeling and Pharmaceutical Pricing: Analyses Used to Inform In-licensing and Developmental Go/No-Go Decisions.

*J.A. Vernon, W.K. Hughen and S.J. Johnson*
Health Care Management Science, Volume 8 No 3 (August 2005)

Special issue of Health Care Management Science arising from fourth conference on Quantitative Modelling in the Management of Healthcare, University of Salford, UK - April 2004

- Preface
  R.D. Baker

- An agenda for healthcare and information simulation.
  T.P. Young

- Monitoring Clinical Performance: The role of software architecture.
  M. Rees and J. Dineschandra

- Modelling outpatient capacity for a diagnosis and treatment centre.
  J. Bowers, B. Lyons, G.I. Mould and T. Symonds

- Length of stay-based patient flow models: Recent developments and future directions.
  A. Marshall, C. Vasilakis and E. El-Darzi

- Choice of models for the analysis and forecasting of hospital beds.
  M. Mackay and M. Lee

- Transient probabilities for queues with applications to hospital waiting list management.
  M. Joy and S. Jones

- Assessing mortality rates from dubious data – when to stop doing statistics and start doing mathematics.
  S. Gallivan

Health Care Management Science, Volume 8 No 4 (November 2005)

- Model-based evaluation of diabetic foot prevention strategies in Austria
  M.S. Rauner, K. Heidenberger and E.-M. Pesendorfer

- Analysis and implications of the determinants of healthcare expenditure in African countries.
  A.A. Okunade

- The effect of social mixing controls on the spread of smallpox - a two-level model.
  M. Kress

- Methods for understanding super-efficient data envelopment analysis results with an application to hospital inpatient surgery.
  L. O’Neill and F. Dexter
Transitions between care provisions demanded by Dutch elderly.  
_E. van Gameren and I. Woittiez_

Short-term nurse scheduling in response to daily fluctuations in supply and demand.  
_J.F. Bard and H.W. Purnomo_

Modeling variability in hospital bed occupancy.  
_G.W. Harrison_

Determinants of dental service utilization among adults-The case of Finland  
_L. Nguyen, U. Häkkinen and G. Rosenqvist_

Contents and abstracts of all volumes of _Health Care Management Science_ are available at Springer web site:  
[www.springerlink.com](http://www.springerlink.com)

_Call for Referees_

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 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:

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

Phone: 1-804-828-5224  
Fax: 1-804-828-1894  
E-mail: ozcan@vcu.edu
Name:____________________________________________

Title:___________________________________________________

Affiliation:_______________________________________________

Degrees:_________________________________________________

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:
__________________________________________________________________________

Yasar A. Ozcan, Ph.D.
Department of Health Administration
P.O. Box 980203
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA 23298-0203
23298-0203 USA  Fax:  1-804-828-1894  E-mail: ozcan@vcu.edu
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.

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• 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
Optimization has long been a cornerstone for advancement of various industrial, government, and military applications. To highlight and support the role of optimization in current advances, and to promote interaction between researchers in various application areas within optimization, the INFORMS Optimization Society is launching a biannual meeting to foster sharing of ideas, methods, and models, and to promote collaborations among researchers with related, but distinct research areas. Each meeting will focus on a specific broad theme (e.g., healthcare, finance, defense, etc).

The 2006 INFORMS Optimization Society Conference (OPT 2006) will focus on Optimization and HealthCare. Computational and optimization technologies play an increasingly important role in modern medicine, life sciences and healthcare issues. Many healthcare problems can be formulated into mathematical models and can be analyzed using sophisticated optimization and computational techniques. We seek original, high quality contributions that investigate theoretical or methodological work on models and algorithms involving optimization approaches applied to healthcare, medical and biological applications. Such applications include, but are not limited to, problems in biological imaging, medical diagnosis, treatment planning, epidemiology, molecular biology, disease modeling, and health-care delivery, operations management, and scheduling.

Additional detail on the 2006 INFORMS Optimization Society Conference is available online at: http://www2.egr.uh.edu/~ginolim/informsOpt/
Conference Announcements (continued)

Contact:
Yasar A. Ozcan of Virginia Commonwealth University, ozcan@hsc.vcu.edu, the Health Care Joint Invited/Sponsored Session Chair

Additional detail on the 2006 International INFORMS Meeting is available online at:
http://www.informs.org/Conf/Hongkong06/
November 5-8, 2006
Pittsburgh Convention Center & Westin Convention Center Hotel
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Operations Research is undergoing a renaissance, a re-birth. As the theory of our field advances, as computational power increases, as data becomes ever more available, the practice of our field expands its boundaries. From public policy to entertainment, from medicine to physics, new applications of operations research abound. These new applications are driving new theory, and new computational models open the doors to rich, exciting new approaches to problems. Even in our traditional areas of manufacturing and logistics, companies are finding more than just profit from operations research: they are finding new business models and competitive advantage.

The INFORMS Annual Meeting 2006 Pittsburgh will explore and celebrate this renaissance. O.R. has always been at its most useful and most innovative when the profession’s visionaries have tackled new problem domains. The meeting will feature reports from the outposts of O.R. innovation in health, crime, counter-terror, IT, privacy and a host of other non-traditional domains. We will hear about new businesses built on operations research and on how advances in computation are opening up new directions in research.

Our view of the renaissance of operations research revolves around three aspects: novel applications, pioneering methodology, and the relationship between O.R. and the broad trends of the 21st century. Clusters and plenary speakers have been chosen to illuminate the thesis that O.R. is about to undergo a dramatic increase in its relevance.

Michael A. Trick
General Chair

Additional details on the 2005 INFORMS Annual Meeting is available online at:
http://www.informs.org/Conf/Pittsburgh06
Conference Announcements (continued)

**CORS / Optimization Days 2006**

**Joint Conference**

**Montréal, May 8-10, 2006**

The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Operational Research Society (CORS) is an international conference dedicated to operations research methods and their applications. Optimization Days is an annual conference organized alternately by the Centre for Research on Transportation (C.R.T.) and the Groupe d’Études et de Recherche en Analyse des Décisions (GERAD). In 2006, these two events will be held jointly and will take place in Montréal.

All those interested in operations research and optimization methods, and their applications, are invited to participate. The languages of the conference will be English and French. The conference will be held at HEC Montréal, 3000 chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine, Montréal, near the Campus of the Université de Montréal.

The deadline for submitting an abstract is February 15, 2006.


Contact Mike Carter (carter@mie.utoronto.ca) or John Blake (john.blake@dal.ca) for more details.

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**10th Biennial European Conference**

**11-13 June 2006**

**Birmingham, United Kingdom**

This is the biennial European meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making. SMDM’s members are world-leading researchers in the fields of applied decision psychology, cost-effectiveness analysis, modelling, diagnostic test evaluation, utility assessment, patient safety and risk communication in the medical arena. The conference is open to all those working in research and public policy in these areas to share ideas and learn. The conference is held in addition to the SMDM annual meeting in October in the USA.

**SMDM Annual Meeting**

**28th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making**

**October 15-18, 2006**

**Boston, Massachusetts**

Details to come at [www.smdm.org](http://www.smdm.org)
Other Announcements

Jossey-Bass is pleased to announce the publication of the following new book by Yasar Ozcan


Yasar A. Ozcan is professor of Health Administration at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Ozcan is editor-in-chief of the journal Health Care Management Science and past president of the Health Care Applications Section of the Institute for Operations Research and Management Science (INFORMS).
Sophie Lapierre – In Memoriam – by Mike Carter

The Health Applications Section is deeply saddened by the passing last month of Sophie Lapierre, following a four-year battle with cancer. Sophie was a long time member of HAS and a dedicated researcher in the field of OR in Healthcare. She was on the HAS executive board for several years, served as the webmistress for our site, and was a very active and enthusiastic supporter of OR in healthcare.

Sophie had a rich family life and a large and extended group of friends and colleagues who will sorely miss her. In particular, our thoughts are with her husband, Stephane Pallage, and her beloved son, Julien Pallage.

Julien was born on July 8, 2000, 6-8 weeks premature. During her pregnancy, Doctors discovered that Sophie had an aggressive form of breast cancer and Julien was induced early. Sophie immediately started the first of several rounds of chemotherapy. Sophie spoke frequently to her colleagues about how much she was enjoying motherhood, and how much joy Julien brought to her, despite the health challenges she was experiencing.

Sophie was a tenured associate professor in Mathematics and Industrial Engineering at the École Polytechnique in Montréal, Canada. Sophie did her Bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering at Polytechnique in Montréal. She went to Georgia Tech to do her Masters in the IE Department in Health Systems. She obtained her PhD at Georgia Tech with Don Ratliffe and Justin Myrick in healthcare Logistics. In Atlanta, she worked with the Fulton County Health Department on the location of facilities.

When she returned to Montréal, one of her major projects concerned the location of mammography clinics in the downtown. Because of our shared interested in health care (and there were precious few of us at that time in Canada!), I was fortunate to have the privilege of collaborating with her on several projects. We had one paper in HCMS on ED physician scheduling (her brother is an ED physician), and we worked on some unpublished home care location and routing problems. She was also active with a number of Montréal hospitals on nurse scheduling and logistics/supply chain management. She was an active supporter and leader in the CSIE, CORS, INFORMS and HAS.

Sophie was a positive, energetic, outgoing person who enjoyed life in many ways. She enjoyed her family and treasured her time with her son. She enjoyed cooking and eating. She was a hockey and soccer fan, especially of women’s teams.
John Blake recalls meeting Sophie at the 2003 INFORMS meeting in Atlanta:

“Sophie could be so fearless. By this time the cancer had returned and she was on chemo for the second time. They talked about her health and the treatment. She was really quite cheerful - she said that the chemo had worked before and that there was no reason to doubt that it wouldn’t work a second time.”

Eric Wolman recalls:

“At the INFORMS Miami meeting in 2001, Sophie gave a wonderful talk about using OR to help her through being a cancer patient. It was interesting, and it reduced everyone in the room to tears. That was when I first learned about her bravery. I know from what she told me then, and in Atlanta last year, that she understood all the probabilities and therefore exactly how bad her prognosis was. As I learned from one of her mentors at Georgia Tech, Justin Myrick, from her colleague and friend Valerie Tardif, and as I saw myself in Atlanta, she rose above all this, remained optimistic, and concentrated with pleasure on her family and her work. Having seen quite a few cancer patients, I can say that her example in this respect was exceptional, demonstrating courage in the highest degree. The last memory of her that I have heard is from Valerie Tardiff, who was with Sophie last Christmas, and who found her upbeat and full of enthusiasm. That is how we should remember her.”

It is true that Sophie understood the odds. When I visited Montréal in 2001, everyone really expected that Sophie had very little time left. Somehow, with a tremendous effort, strength and a positive mental attitude, she really did beat the odds a couple of times.

I wrote to her husband, Stephane Pallage who is also a Montréal academic. I expressed my condolences, and suggested that I was amazed at how well Sophie and Stephane had lived through the past four years.Stephane’s words were so perfect, I have included them here:

“Sophie went through her treatments as an Industrial Engineer. She developed ways and tools to make sure she would receive the best possible care and reach the best quality of life. She wrote a book based on her experiences that she completed a week before her death. There are several ways of reading the book. Some readers will enjoy the story behind those four years of motherhood and cancer. Some readers will learn to use the tools she developed. Some others, likely engineers, will view the book as an application of operations research to the management of a complex disease. In the process of telling her story, she also tackles the myths and the actual problems of Canadian health care. A public policy maker might find the book particularly useful.

I am editing the final version of the book. Four publishers have already contacted me. I am pretty sure the book will be in press within a year. Benjamin Smith offered to translate it to English. In many ways, Sophie is still with us.

It is hard to summarize the last four years. One thing is sure: Sophie put happiness first. She was a truly happy person. Of course, she did not need cancer to find happiness, she had always made the choices that made her happy. Cancer rendered things more complex, but it did not change anything about that philosophy. There was no bitterness or
regret in Sophie. She set her priorities and acted accordingly. A big chunk of her priorities involved her son Julien.

The last four years have not been four years of suffering. They have been four very beautiful years.”

Personally, I suspect that Sophie would not want us to be too morose about her death. I think she would like us to celebrate her life, and remember her for her enthusiasm, strength, will and vibrancy. We will miss her.

Montréal’s École Polytechnique has set up a fund towards a Sophie Lapierre Fellowship. They welcome donations. At the moment, Stéphane is managing the fund, collecting donations and making sure they reach the right people. Those who wish to make a donation can write a check to Fondation de Polytechnique with the note “in memory of Sophie Lapierre.” They can either send the check to:

    Stéphane Pallage
    700B Champagneur
    Outremont, QC H2V 3P8
    Canada

or to Polytechnique directly:

    Fondation de Polytechnique
    École Polytechnique de Montréal,
    C.P. 6079, succursale Centre-ville
    Montréal, QC H3C 3A7
    Canada

The Foundation issues receipts for tax purposes.