President’s Message

L. Jeff Hong

I hope this message finds you well!

With the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, the academic life is slowly going back to normal. At the recent 2021 INFORMS Annual Meeting, I-Sim sponsored 17 sessions, three of them were in person. We also had the I-Sim business meeting in hybrid mode during the INFORMS meeting, with a handful of members attending in person and many more online. The upcoming Winter Simulation Conference will be in hybrid mode as well, we expect to see more members attending in person.

Currently, the I-Sim has 422 members, significantly lower than the pre-Covid level (e.g., 1102 at the end of 2019). However, it is higher than 379, the number reported in the 2021 Spring newsletter. Please remember to renew your membership and also encourage your students and colleagues to join the I-Sim.

We will have a business meeting at the upcoming Winter Simulation Conference. The detailed time and location will be announced soon through INFORMS Connect. I hope to see more members there, either in person or online.
Editor’s Corner

Xiaowei Zhang

I would like to thank the I-Sim Officers and Committees for providing timely updates on the I-Sim business matters. Enjoy the newsletter!

Secretary’s Corner

Ilya O. Ryzhov

As of 10/18/21, I-SIM had 422 members, of whom 97 were students. These numbers are slightly up from June 2021 (402 total). However, membership continues to be far below pre-pandemic levels: at the end of 2019, I-SIM had 1102 members, of whom 703 were students. Thus, compared to 2019, I-SIM now has approximately 20% fewer regular/retired members, but 90% fewer student members. INFORMS staff have observed that membership tends to increase around the end of the year, but any such gains are likely to be modest in magnitude if students do not begin to participate in large numbers again.
Treasurer’s Report
Canan G. Corlu

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Total Revenue</td>
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<td>• Dues</td>
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<td>• Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>• Membership Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Labor &amp; Fringe Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sponsorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Gain / Loss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Balance* (09/30/2021)</td>
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</tr>
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* The I-Sim account includes $20,750 that belongs to the liability account shared by all four WSC sponsors (see Fall 2012 newsletter).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report on the Simulation Archive
Computer Simulation Archive Advisory Committee: Russell Barton (chair), Dennis Pegden, Simon Taylor

The Computer Simulation Archive housed in the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) in the NC State University Libraries in Raleigh, North Carolina, is an extensive collection of material documenting the origins and development of the field of simulation. It is viewed as a model for other technical computing archives. This report provides an update on Archive activities and activities of the Advisory Committee.

COVID-19 Delays. Much of the planned activity for this year has been delayed due to in-person restrictions and NC State University Libraries staffing limitations.

CSAAC Activities. The Committee has identified an expanded list of simulation leaders to interview for the oral histories portion of the Archive, and three such interviews are in planning. Zoom was tested for quality for capturing oral histories and is satisfactory. The remaining materials from Jim Henriksen's records will be collected for the Archive in early November by Dick Nance. The Archive annual report was prepared jointly by the Computer Simulation Archive Advisory Committee and NC State University Libraries administration. It has been shared with ACM SIGSIM.
and I-Sim leadership. Archive Web pages are being updated to better highlight the role of the Computer Simulation Archive Advisory Committee, an unusual but valuable instrument for growing Archive materials and financial support for the Archive.

**Plans for the Coming Year.** These are activities that were postponed from the current year. Access to the Archive contents will be greatly enhanced by continuing digitization. In addition to print material, the digitization effort in the coming year (2022) will include the start of transcription of the video oral history collection. Planned video and audio oral history interviewees and interviewers will be asked (by NC State University Libraries) for their permission to have their oral histories transcribed and put online. Transcription work is expected to commence in 2022. CSAAC will continue to approach additional early leaders and plan additional interviews for the coming year.

**Endowment.** The market value for the endowment reported in the Spring Newsletter did not include one special account; including that, the endowment value reported at the end of 2020 was $171,122, a 17% increase over the previous year.

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**Report on the Distinguished Service Award**

*Distinguished Service Award Committee: Susan Sanchez (chair), Michael C. Fu, Christos Alexopoulos*

The 2021 committee for I-Sim’s Distinguished Service Award has selected the recipient, who will be announced at the Winter Simulation Conference.

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**Report on the Lifetime Professional Achievement Award**

*Lifetime Professional Achievement Award Committee: James R. Wilson (chair), Dave Goldsman, Pierre L’Ecuyer*

The 2021 committee for I-Sim’s Lifetime Professional Achievement Award has selected the recipient, who will be announced at the Winter Simulation Conference.

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**Report on the Outstanding Publication Award**

*Outstanding Publication Award Committee: Jian-Qiang Hu (chair), Pierre L’Ecuyer, Enlu Zhou*

The 2021 committee for I-Sim’s Outstanding Publication Award has selected the recipient, who will be announced at the Winter Simulation Conference.
EDITORS’ REPORTS

Report on IISE Transactions

Jiaqiao Hu, Simulation Department Co-Editor

From October 1st 2020 to October 1st 2021, the simulation area of the Stochastic Models and Simulation Department received 11 papers, including 8 new submissions and 3 resubmissions. During this period, 2 papers were accepted, 5 papers were rejected, 2 are under revision, and 2 are currently awaiting the first round of editorial feedback. The turnaround time averaged over the papers with decisions were 68 days. The Associate Editors in the Simulation Department are Guzin Bayraksan, Ilya Ryzhov, and Dashi Singham. I would like to sincerely thank all of them for their time and effort spent in serving the journal.

The departments of Stochastic Modeling and Simulation seeks to publish high-quality research papers that advance the theory and practice in the modeling, analysis, control, and optimization of stochastic systems. The simulation area of the department is interested in research contributions pertaining to all aspects of stochastic simulation. We welcome papers with strong methodological elements, e.g., developing new simulation methods and tools for general problem classes that have applications in many areas. We also welcome well-executed papers that study important applications arising in, for example, engineering design, manufacturing, communications, and finance, where new or existing simulation techniques are developed or creatively applied. In addition to the conventional topics in stochastic simulation, of particular interest are contributions that address the integration of simulation techniques with other emerging technologies and applications such as high-performance computing, data analytics, artificial intelligence, healthcare, and energy systems.

Please submit your research work via IISE Transactions' manuscript central: https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/iietransactions

Report on INFORMS Journal on Computing

Bruno Tuffin, Simulation Area Editor

The IJOC Simulation Area covers all computational aspects of stochastic simulation. We seek high-quality research on the computational aspects of simulation model building, simulation data structures, simulation modeling and experiment environments, stochastic input modeling, random-variate generation, output analysis, simulation-based optimization, variance-reduction methods for simulation experiments, and other aspects of simulation modeling, experimentation, and analysis.

Submissions to the Simulation Area should not merely use simulation as a tool for generating experiments to test another methodology (these manuscripts should instead be submitted to the IJOC area for which the methodology applies), nor should they only present experimental results from a simulation program. Rather, manuscripts submitted to the area must make a significant contribution to the field of stochastic simulation, as described in the previous paragraph. Complete instructions for preparing manuscripts are available at http://joc.pubs.informs.org. Submissions
must be done through Manuscript Central: http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijoc.

In the one-year period from October 1, 2020 to September 15, 2021, the Simulation Area of the INFORMS Journal on Computing (IJOC) received 14 new submissions. During this period, 7 papers were accepted and 6 rejected. The average number of days from submission to final decision is 62.8 days.

I’d like to thank the associate editors (Seong-Hee Kim, Henry Lam, Chang-Han Rhee and Yongjia Song) for their truly outstanding work, and for making my job much more manageable. A particular thank to Zdravko Botev who chose to step down after five years of very dedicated service.

Report on the Journal of Simulation
Christine Currie, John Fowler, Loo Hay Lee, and Navonil Mustafee, Editors

Having welcomed Professor Navonil Mustafee to the EiC team in April of this year, we have some new associate editors who are already bringing in some new and interesting papers, as well as increasing the range of expertise on our editorial board. JoS welcomes submissions from both researchers and practitioners covering novel techniques, tools, methods and technologies in discrete-event simulation, agent-based modelling, and systems dynamics. We also publish novel applications of these methods in a wide range of areas, including (but not limited to) manufacturing, service, defence, health care & general commerce.

The latest journal statistics are as follows:

- Impact factor 2.205 (2020); five year impact factor 2.015 (2020)
- 15% acceptance rate
- 29 days avg. from submission to first decision
- 92 days avg. from submission to first post-review decision
- 25 days avg. from acceptance to online publication

The editors are always happy to discuss potential papers prior to submission.

Report on Operations Research
L. Jeff Hong, Operations Research Simulation Area Editor

Activity in the Simulation Area of Operations Research (April 26, 2021 to October 17, 2021)

For the period specified, there were 18 new submissions and 13 resubmissions. There were totally 29 editorial decisions made in the period, 12 rejections, 9 major revisions, 3 minor revisions and 5 acceptances. Of the 29 editorial decisions, 15 were on time (less than 3 months from the date of submission), 11 were late (between 4 and 6 months) and 3 were very late (6 months or more). I would like to thank the Associate Editor team, Russell Barton, Peter Frazier, Bernd Heidergott, Jiaqiao Hu, Susan Hunter, Seong-Hee Kim, Henry Lam, Ilya Ryzhov, and Enlu Zhou, for their wonderful service to the journal.

The editorial statement of the simulation area may be found at https://pubsonline.informs.org/page/opre/editorial-statements/area-editors-statements#Simulation.

In addition to the traditional areas of simulation, we welcome contributions that
develop the interface of simulation with other methodological areas (for example, large-scale computing, machine learning and data analytics) or application areas (such as healthcare, financial engineering, sharing economy, environment and energy). In general, papers should be of interest to a broad O.R. audience, and not just to the simulation community, although we certainly welcome papers that represent major theoretical progress. Please submit papers electronically via the Manuscript Central O.R. Web site (http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/opre).

Report on Stochastic Systems
Shane G. Henderson, Editor-in-Chief

Stochastic Systems is the flagship journal of the INFORMS Applied Probability Society. It seeks to publish high-quality papers that substantively contribute to the modeling, analysis, and control of stochastic systems. A paper’s contribution may lie in the formulation of new mathematical models, in the development of new mathematical or computational methods, in the innovative application of existing methods, or in the opening of new application domains. The editorial board includes simulation researchers Jose Blanchet, Paul Glasserman, Peter Glynn, and Sandeep Juneja. For the full editorial board see https://pubsonline.informs.org/page/stsy/editorial-board.

The journal homepage is http://pubsonline.informs.org/journal/stsy

Stochastic Systems is an open access journal. There are no submission fees or page charges. We aim to return reports to authors within 3 months of submission. The average time from submission to decision is 81 days, and 90% of papers have decisions within 150 days of submission. Please submit papers through Manuscript Central: http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ssy.
CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 Winter Simulation Conference
December 13–15, Phoenix, AZ, USA; December 15–17, Virtual
Jie Xu (source: http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/wsc2021/)

"Join practitioners and researchers to discuss advances in all aspects of modeling and simulation, under this year's theme, 'Simulation for a Smart World: From Smart Devices to Smart Cities'. Recognizing some travel restrictions will be in place for the remainder of the year, we are creating a dynamic agenda that engages conference participants in both formats. In-person events such as keynotes and paper tracks will be recorded and available on the conference's online platform. Similarly, online events such as the PhD colloquium, poster sessions, and paper tracks will take place on the conference platform, creating a shared environment for the community to interact. Exhibits will be live, networking events will be hybrid – so much to do in either format!"

"The focus of WSC 2021 is on the design and innovation of smart cities through the use of simulation. Smart devices and sensors offer us an amazing opportunity to create our urban future where cities are safe, environmentally secure, green, and efficient and power, water, transportation work seamlessly towards this goal. This vision relies on significant advancement from simulation both in theory and practice as modelling, experimentation and data analysis needs to come together to tackle various challenges. We invite papers that highlight innovations in both simulation theory and applications, with a specific interest in the use of simulation in smart cities design, implementation, development and vision." For additional information, see the conference website.

2022 INFORMS Business Analytics Conference
April 3–5, 2022, Houston, TX, USA
Jie Xu (source: http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/analytics2022/)

"Join us April 3-5, 2022, to share ideas and real-world success stories of how analytics is saving lives, saving money, and solving problems around the world.

In addition to a conference lineup of cutting-edge sessions and face-to-face networking opportunities, the city of Houston is home to a variety of fun events and attractions, an award-winning restaurant scene, and an exciting nightlife. Needless to say, the 2022 conference will be an experience you won’t soon forget!

As the saying goes, everything is bigger in Texas, and we hope that our return to an in-person conference will be the biggest and best INFORMS Business Analytics Conference yet!"
IIEE Annual Conference & Expo 2022
May 21–24, 2022, Seattle, WA, USA
Jie Xu (source: https://www.iise.org/Annual/details.aspx?id=40887)

“Make plans to join us in the Pacific Northwest as we return to in-person education and networking for the first time since 2019!”

“The IIEE Annual Conference gathers the seasoned industry practitioners and cutting edge researchers from all segments of industrial & systems engineering domain. This event provides an exciting opportunity for attendees to meet, network, explore ideas, and learn from the leaders in industrial & systems engineering. The conference program comprises primarily two types of sessions - proven solutions and applications from industry, and research from academia and industry scholars. In addition to these sessions, the conference program offers interactive panels, workshops, town hall meetings, exhibit hall and keynote presentations.”

Submission Deadline - Nov. 1, 2021; Notification of Acceptance - Dec. 6, 2021; Speaker Registration Deadline - Jan. 20, 2022; Paper Submission Deadline - Jan. 20, 2022. For more information, please see the conference website.

2022 CORS/INFORMS International Conference
June 5–8, 2022, Vancouver, Canada
Jie Xu (source: http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/2022international/)

“Surrounded by forested mountains and ocean, Vancouver is a beautiful city and a popular tourist destination with a mild climate and breathtaking views.

Vancouver has been the host city of many international conferences and events including the 2010 Winter Olympics. We are very proud that the CORS/INFORMS International Conference will be held in Vancouver, June 5-8, 2022.

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the beautiful city of Vancouver for a unique experience to learn about the latest advances in research, practice, and developments in operations research and analytics, as well as an incredible networking experience, while enjoying this lively and gorgeous city.”
INFORMS-Sim News • FALL 2021

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I-SIM BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

INFORMS Simulation Society Business Meeting:
2021 INFORMS Annual Meeting (In Person & Virtual), October 25, Anaheim, CA 2021
Ilya O. Ryzhov

At 9:35 PM EST, the meeting was convened by Jeff Hong, President of I-SIM. There were 37 attendees, of whom 11 attended in person.

At 9:36, Jeff Hong showed a list of I-SIM sponsored sessions at INFORMS. There were 17 in total, of which 3 were in person and another 2 were hybrid. The total number is comparable to previous years.

At 9:37, Ilya Ryzhov, Secretary of I-SIM, reported on membership. As of 10/18/21, I-SIM had 422 members, of whom 97 were students. These numbers are slightly up from June 2021 (402 total). However, membership continues to be far below pre-pandemic levels: at the end of 2019, I-SIM had 1102 members, of whom 703 were students. Membership tends to increase around the end of the year, but if students do not begin to participate in large numbers again, it will likely be modest in magnitude.

At 9:38, Jie Xu, Vice-President/President-Elect of I-SIM, presented the treasurer’s report on behalf of Canan Gunes Corlu, Treasurer of I-SIM. The ending balance was $106,010, not including any items pertaining to WSC. The report listed a one-time expense of $5,000, and it was explained that this was a donation to the Simulation Archive, which had been agreed upon at the previous WSC.

At 9:39, Jie Xu presented the following upcoming conferences and events:

- 2021 Winter Simulation Conference, 12/13/21 – 12/15/21 (in-person) and 12/15/21 – 12/17/21 (virtual) in Phoenix, AZ;
- INFORMS Business Analytics Conference, 4/3/22 – 4/5/22 in Houston, TX;
- IISE Annual Conference & Expo, 5/21/22 – 5/24/22 in Seattle, WA;

The 2022 conferences are currently planned as in-person events.

At 9:42, Russell Barton presented an update on the Computer Simulation Archive. The archive was established in 1998. It is housed at NC State and contains video interviews with pioneering researchers in the field. The pandemic has kept NCSU library staff off-site, and a staff shortage has caused delays in the Archive’s digitization and transcription activities. Temporary staff hiring is underway.

Starting at 9:43, reports were presented for several journals. Henry Lam reported on behalf of Bruno Tuffin for the INFORMS Journal on Computing. Loo Hay Lee reported on the Journal of Simulation. Jie Xu reported on IISE Transactions on behalf of Jiaqiao Hu. Jeff Hong reported on the Simulation area of Operations Research, noting that the past year saw a significant increase in new submissions, many of which use simulation as a methodology to solve problems in analytics or machine
learning. Finally, Shane Henderson reported on Stochastic Systems.

At 9:58, Jeff Hong asked for new business.

At 9:59, the meeting adjourned.

**Attendees on Zoom:** To deter email harvesting, @ has been replaced with <of>.

Jeff Hong - Fudan University - hong_liu<of>fudan.edu.cn
Ilya Ryzhov - University of Maryland - iryzhov<of>umd.edu
Enlu Zhou - GA Tech - enlu.zhou<of>isye.gatech.edu
Zeyu Zheng - UC Berkeley - zyzheng<of>berkeley.edu
Guangxin Jiang - Harbin Institute of Technology - gxjiang<of>hit.edu.cn
Zhaolin Hu - Tongji University - russell<of>tongji.edu.cn
Siyang Gao - City University of Hong Kong - siyangao<of>cityu.edu.hk
Raghu Pasupathy - Purdue University - pasupath<of>purdue.edu
Wen Shi - Central South University - wenshi<of>csu.edu.cn
Xiaowei Zhang - University of Hong Kong - xiaoweiz<of>hku.hk
Susan Hunter - Purdue University - susanhunter<of>purdue.edu
Haitao Liu - Dalian University of Technology - htliu<of>dlut.edu.cn
Barry Nelson - Northwestern University - nelsonb<of>northwestern.edu
Loo Hay Lee - National University of Singapore - iselee<of>nus.edu.sg
David Eckman - Texas A&M University - eckman<of> TAMU.edu
Yijie Peng - Peking University - pengyijie<of>pk.edu.cn
Russell Barton - Penn State University - rbarton<of>psu.edu
Xi Chen - Virginia Tech - xchen.ise<of>vt.edu
Xiang Xie - xxiexianghn<of>gmail.com
Zhiyuan Huang - Tongji University - huangzy<of>tongji.edu.cn
Haihui Shen - Shanghai Jiao Tong University - shenhaihui<of>sjtu.edu.cn
Henry Lam - Columbia University - khl2114<of>columbia.edu
Jun Luo - Shanghai Jiao Tong University - jluo_ms<of>sjtu.edu.cn
Sara Shashaani - NC State - sshasha2<of>ncsu.edu
Kun Zhang - Renmin University of China - kunzhang<of>ruc.edu.cn
Jian-Qiang Hu - Fudan University - hujq<of>fudan.edu.cn

**In-person attendees:**

Jie Xu - George Mason University - jxu13<of>gmu.edu
Ashkan Negahban - Penn State University - aun85<of>psu.edu
David Cornejo - Glaxo Smith Kline - david.cornejo<of>gsk.com
Peter Frazier - Cornell University - pf98<of>cornell.edu
Chun-Hung Chen - George Mason University - cchen9<of>gmu.edu
Yasaman Ghasemi - Loyola Marymount University - yasaman.ghasemi<of>lmu.edu
Yuan Zhou - UT Arlington - yuan.zhou<of>uta.edu
Shane Henderson - Cornell University - sgh9<of>cornell.edu
Chang-Han Rhee - Northwestern University - chang-han.rhee<of>northwestern.edu
Raul Astudillo - Cornell University - ra598<of>cornell.edu
Laurie Travis - Virginia Tech - LTravis<of>vt.edu

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Event Calendar
Xiaowei Zhang

2021 Winter Simulation Conference
December 13–15, Phoenix, AZ, USA; December 15–17, Virtual
http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/wsc2021

2022 INFORMS Business Analytics Conference, Houston, TX, USA
April 3–5, 2022
https://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/analytics2022

IIE Annual Conference & Expo 2022, Seattle, WA, USA
May 21–24, 2022
https://www.iise.org/Annual/details.aspx?id=40887

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June 5–8, 2022
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