President’s Message
Raghu Pasupathy

The I-Sim editorial team and I are happy to bring you the 2020 Spring edition of the I-Sim newsletter. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves in the United States and the rest of the world, I hope and trust that you continue to take measures to remain safe. While virtually all aspects of our lives seem to have been affected in some way, the effects that are most relevant to this forum are the projected alterations in the format and scheduling of the conferences that are either directly supported by I-Sim or patronized most by I-Sim’s members. The INFORMS Annual Conference is one such and all indications are that the conference will be held as scheduled November 8–11, 2020 in National Harbor, MD. Likewise, the dates for the Winter Simulation Conference remain unchanged (December 13–16, 2020) even though, as the website indicates, holding the conference may involve getting “creative with our approach.” I encourage you to check individual conference websites to obtain more specific information on changes to deadlines and format.

Importantly, I-Sim will be holding elections for Vice-President/President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and two positions in the I-Sim Council. The newsletter includes a ballot for these elections. Please vote by returning your ballot by e-mail to the I-Sim Secretary.

The INFORMS Simulation Society Newsletter is published in the spring and fall each year by the INFORMS Simulation Society (I-Sim), http://connect.informs.org/simulation/. Membership in I-Sim is independent of INFORMS membership. To join, visit https://www.informs.org/About-INFORMS/Member-Benefits/Join-INFORMS-and-or-INFORMS-Communities, or contact the I-Sim Secretary. © 2020 The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences. All rights reserved.
President’s Message, Continued

Raghu Pasupathy

Secretary.

I want to add that 2019 was another excellent year for I-Sim as measured by the quality and strength of membership, number of sessions organized in the simulation track of the INFORMS Annual Conference, and the quality of papers presented at the Winter Simulation Conference. All three of I-Sim’s flagship awards — the Lifetime Professional Achievement Award (LPAA), the Distinguished Service Award (DSA), and the Outstanding Simulation Publication Award (OSPA) — were given in 2019. This newsletter carries further details about these awards and the 2019 recipients. I want to give a special word of thanks to the various award committees for their hard work in seeking nominations and carrying through the sometimes difficult deliberative process in deciding awardees. This newsletter also includes a call for nominations for these awards for the year 2020.

Editor’s Corner

Canan G. Corlu

I hope you enjoy the newsletter, and congratulations to all of the award winners! As my term ends, I would like to thank Susan Hunter (previous editor), who has been extremely supportive during my tenure as the communications editor.
Treasurer’s Report

Jie Xu

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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). WSC 2019 had a surplus of $7,948. The above numbers are based on the January 2020 financial statement before INFORMS finishes its internal auditing process and is subject to change.

Secretary’s Corner

Susan R. Hunter

As of May 1, 2020, we have 1,006 members. This number is a slight decrease from last year, but remains an overall increase from years prior (1,199 members in March 2019, 915 members in March 2018, 647 members in 2017, 618 members in 2016). Thank you for your support!

We have at least 200 members with addresses outside the United States.

Due to the transition to a new INFORMS system, I am unable to provide more nuanced information about our membership at this time. However, once the system is fully up and running, we should be able to easily obtain detailed membership reports.

Please remember to renew your I-Sim membership when you renew your INFORMS membership this year. You can renew online at https://www.informs.org. If you are not currently a member and want to join I-Sim, please visit

https://www.informs.org/About-INFORMS/Member-Benefits/Join-INFORMS-and-or-INFORMS-Communities.
Members receive discounts on conferences sponsored by the Simulation Society, including the Winter Simulation Conference. Membership is also a great way to participate in and support the simulation community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Underrepresented Minorities and Women

Eunhye Song, Chair

Last year, Qiong Zhang left the I-Sim Diversity committee after 3 years of her service. In 2019, the committee welcomed Sara Shashaani as a new member. For the 2019 WSC I-Sim Diversity award, the committee received 37 applications in total. The applicants were from Canada, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Singapore, and the USA and 89% of them were first-time WSC attendees. Three awardees were chosen based on the ranking given by the committee members.

Report on the Subdivision Council

Theresa Roeder, I-Sim Representative to the Subdivision Council

At its retreat in January, the INFORMS Subdivisions Council examined the purpose and role of the Council, in an effort to increase the impact and effectiveness of the Council. It identified several issues within the Society that the Council might be able to help address: create synergies between Subdivisions; create synergies between Subdivisions and outside groups; connect the work of INFORMS committees with the Subdivisions that the work should be supporting; help share/coordinate goals across INFORMS; and mentoring new/emerging/challenged Subdivisions. Subcommittees were formed to address the question of collaboration and communication between Subdivisions, INFORMS committees, and the Subdivisions Council. The subcommittee for the member data dashboard project from 2019 is continuing its work.

EDITORS’ REPORTS

Report on IISE Transactions

Jiaqiao Hu, Simulation Department Editor

We have received 6 submissions to the simulation area of IISE Transactions since the last reporting period. One was desk-rejected, one was rerouted to a different department, and the rest were submitted after March and are currently under the first round of review. There is still no sufficient data on turnaround/decision times, so I would like to wait till the Fall to provide a report.
Report on INFORMS Journal on Computing
Bruno Tuffin, Simulation Area Editor

The INFORMS Journal on Computing (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 electronically through Manuscript Central: http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijoc.

During 2019, the Simulation Area of IJOC received 21 new submissions and 15 revisions. During that period, 7 papers were accepted and 15 rejected. The average turnaround time for an original paper was 61.0 days, and 53.1 days for a revision.

I would like to thank the associate editors (Zdravko Botev, Seong-Hee Kim, Henry Lam, Chang-Han Rhee and Yongjia Song) for their truly outstanding work, and for making my job much more manageable. Many thanks to Raghu Pasupathy who is stepping down after several years of very appreciated service.

Bruno Tuffin
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35042 Rennes Cedex, France
email: bruno.tuffin@inria.fr
phone: +33 2 99 84 74 94

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

The Journal of Simulation welcomes submissions from both researchers and practitioners covering techniques, tools, methods and technologies of the application and use of discrete-event simulation, agent-based modelling, and systems dynamics in diverse application areas, e.g., manufacturing, service, defence, health care & general commerce.

Journal of Simulation has an impact factor of 1.533 (2018) an acceptance rate of around 15-20% and an average time to first decision for all papers of 23 days.

A recent paper written in response to the COVID-19 pandemic can be seen as a call
to arms for simulation modelers, detailing many of the problems that simulation modeling could be applied to and we would love to see more high-impact articles looking at these really important issues:

A special issue on “Modeling and Simulation in the Cloud Computing Era” is due to be opened for submissions shortly (deadline 15 January 2021).

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

Activity in the Simulation Area of Operations Research (October 18, 2019 to April 25, 2020)

For the period specified, there were 6 new submissions and 3 resubmissions. There were totally 13 editorial decisions made in the period, 6 rejections, 5 major revisions, 1 minor revision and 1 acceptance. Of the 13 editorial decisions, 5 were on time (less than 3 months from the date of submission), 7 were late (between 4 and 6 months) and 1 were very late (6 months or more). I would like to thank the Associate Editor team, Russell Barton, Peter Frazier, Bernd Heidergott, Jiaqiao Hu, 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. Our
average time from submission to decision is 88 days and 91% of decisions are made within 150 days of submission. Not bad, but still not where I’d like to be. Please submit papers at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ssy/.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)
July 12–18, 2020, No in-person attendance
Jeff Hong (source: https://icml.cc/)

“The International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) is the premier gathering of professionals dedicated to the advancement of the branch of artificial intelligence known as machine learning.

ICML is globally renowned for presenting and publishing cutting-edge research on all aspects of machine learning used in closely related areas like artificial intelligence, statistics and data science, as well as important application areas such as machine vision, computational biology, speech recognition, and robotics.

ICML is one of the fastest growing artificial intelligence conferences in the world. Participants at ICML span a wide range of backgrounds, from academic and industrial researchers, to entrepreneurs and engineers, to graduate students and postdocs.”

The Thirty-seventh annual conference is held Sun Jul 12th through Sat the 18th, 2020 at Virtual Conference Only.

Conference on Learning Theory (COLT)
July 09–12, 2020, No in-person attendance
Jeff Hong (source: https://learningtheory.org/colt2020/)

“The COVID-19 situation has impacted all our lives in unprecedented ways. This includes all members of the COLT community: authors, reviewers, meta-reviewers, chairs, steering committee members and organizers, and everyone who planned to attend COLT. The situation has required us to update our plans for COLT 2020 in two important ways: 1. COLT 2020 will take place entirely virtually; 2. The reviewing process is being slowed, and decision notifications will accordingly be delayed.”

International Conference in Monte Carlo Methods & Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods in Scientific Computing
August 9–14, 2020, Oxford, UK
Jeff Hong (source: https://mcqmc20.web.ox.ac.uk/home)

“The MCQMC conference series is a biennial meeting focused on Monte Carlo (MC) and quasi-Monte Carlo (QMC) methods in scientific computing. The conference attracts between 150 and 200 participants. Its aim is to provide a forum where leading researchers and users can exchange information on the latest theoretical developments and important applications of these methods. Recent conferences have attracted researchers in Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC). In a nutshell,
MC methods study complex systems by simulations fed by computer-generated pseudorandom numbers. QMC methods replace these random numbers by more evenly distributed (carefully selected) numbers to improve their effectiveness. A large variety of special techniques are developed and used to make these methods more effective in terms of speed and accuracy. The conference focuses primarily on the mathematical study of these techniques.

Given the rapidly growing problems due to the current pandemic, it seems unlikely that the conference will be able to continue as planned. The conference will hold off from a definite decision until late June, to see how things develop, and in the meantime the conference will not open registration. The conference also encourages everyone to hold off from making any definite travel and accommodation plans.

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**IIESE Annual Conference & Expo**

**October 31–November 3, 2020, New Orleans, Louisiana**  
*Jeff Hong (source: https://www.iise.org/Annual/)*

“The Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE) is excited to invite you to New Orleans for an educational feast fit for the profession’s finest. At the IISE Annual Conference & Expo, you’re joining leaders in the field, up-and-comers and students to network, gather new ideas and learn about innovative tools and techniques. Prepare to make connections that will aid your career and build friendships that last a lifetime.”

With the health and welfare of our members and Conference attendees as our top priority during the COVID-19 pandemic, we rescheduled the Annual Conference & Expo to Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2020, in New Orleans at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. Please view the revised schedule and new registration dates. The early-bird discount deadline is now set for Sept. 13.

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**2020 INFORMS Annual Meeting**

**November 8–11, 2020, Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, Maryland**  
*Jeff Hong (source: http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/nationalharbor2020/)*

The 2020 INFORMS Annual Meeting is a unique opportunity to connect and network with the more than 7,000 INFORMS members, students, prospective employers and employees, and academic and industry experts who compose the INFORMS community. We look forward to seeing you and, additionally, celebrating 25 years of INFORMS with you in National Harbor, MD, November 8-11, 2020!
2020 Winter Simulation Conference
December 13–16, 2020, Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida
Jeff Hong (source: http://meetings2.informs.org/wordpress/wsc2020/)

“We live in exciting times in which the power of data and computing are at our fingertips. With this increased power comes increased complexity – which invites simulation as a natural tool to help drive innovation. This, in turn, allows us to innovate in the theory and practice of simulation itself. We invite papers that highlight innovations in both simulation theory and applications, with a specific interest in innovative uses of simulation in unconventional areas such as the humanities, social sciences, and the arts.”

WSC 2020 will take place at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida. The theme of the conference is “Simulation Drives Innovation”. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Ben Amaba, Chief Technology Officer for the Industrial Sector, IBM Data Sciences and Artificial Intelligence Team Elite.

2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

James R. Wilson Receives the 2019 Lifetime Professional Achievement Award
Lee Schruben (Chair), Russell Cheng, and David Goldman

James R. Wilson, Professor Emeritus in the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at North Carolina State University (NCSU), is the recipient of The INFORMS Simulation Society's Lifetime Professional Achievement Award (LPAA). The Lifetime Professional Achievement Award is the highest honor of the Society, given occasionally, but at most once a year. The purpose of this award is to recognize major contributions to the field of simulation that are sustained over a professional career, with the critical consideration being the total impact of those contributions on the field of computer simulation.

Throughout his 40-year professional career, Prof. Wilson has been a giant of the simulation community. He has authored 116 research papers in the leading archival journals, written 10 book chapters, and published 98 articles in Conference Proceedings, mostly in the peer-reviewed Proceedings of the Winter Simulation Conference. His research has been recognized by awards such as the Jacob Wolfowitz Prize for The-
 theoretical Advances in the Mathematical and Management Sciences, the Outstanding Simulation Publication Award from the INFORMS Simulation Society, and multiple Best Paper Awards in Operations Engineering and Analysis from IISE Transactions. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers in 2002, and an INFORMS Fellow in 2005. In 2013, he received the David F. Baker Distinguished Research Award from the Institute of Industrial Systems Engineers.

Prof. Wilson’s nomination letters were from global leaders in simulation research. They described his specific papers as “a tour-de-force”, “foundational”, “seminal”, “groundbreaking”, “outstanding contributions”, “fundamental”, “pioneering”, “comprehensive”, “having long-term, significant impact”, and “the groundwork for all subsequent research”. All of Prof. Wilson’s research papers are characterized by meticulous quality, clarity of exposition, rigorous development, attention to detail, and the highest ethical research standards. Some of the most prominent researchers in the simulation field say they were inspired in their own written and oral expositions by Prof. Wilson’s engaging, stylish rigor.

Prof. Wilson has also contributed broadly to simulation practice in healthcare, logistics, production, the textile industry, and biomechanics. His projects were described in one letter as “great illustrations of how to apply ‘state-of-the-art’ simulation methodology to real-life problems in a non-trivial way. They are important for the advance of simulation practice in operations research and management sciences.”

Prof. Wilson has advised and co-advised over 30 Ph.D. and 40 MS students, at NCSU and elsewhere. Eight of his doctoral students have won awards for their dissertation research. His students and co-advisors commented on Wilson’s dedication, relentless pursuit of excellence, and unprecedented attention to technical and expository details.

Prof. Wilson has received numerous awards for teaching excellence including: the C. A. Anderson Outstanding Faculty Award from NCSU student organizations and the UTC Excellence in Teaching Award from the NCSU College of Engineering. He was also elected to the NCSU Academy of Outstanding Teachers.

In disseminating knowledge, Prof. Wilson has provided excellent written guides for good research writing, reviewing technical papers, and on science and engineering ethics. He is a living template for outstanding written and oral presentations, described in one letter as exemplifying “clarity and attention to detail. What a pleasure it is to see Jim in action!”

Not content with developing and analyzing his innovative algorithms, Wilson and his colleagues have contributed software to disseminate their methodologies. These too have served as prototypes for simulation methodology software. As one letter puts it: Wilson’s software is the ‘gold standard’ [for] implementations against which all later proposed algorithms are tested.”

If Prof. Wilson had not already more than qualified for this honor with his research, practice, dissemination of knowledge, and software, he would have qualified solely by his Service to the Profession and Advancement of the Status or Visibility of the Field. Wilson has been simulation’s premier spokesperson. Some of the accolades in the nominating letters described his representation of the simulation community as “exemplary”, “a pillar”, “terrific ambassador for simulation”, “superb expositor”,
“eloquent spokesman”, “logical”, and “humorous”. One letter writer describes himself as always “buoyed by [Wilson’s] oration and entranced by his eloquence”.

Prof. Wilson has assumed some of the biggest leadership responsibilities in simulation, and he is acknowledged by his successors as their role model. His service work is overwhelming and outshines the entire simulation community. He has the reputation as a demanding but exceedingly helpful editor. It is well known that he saved the Simulation Department of Management Science from extinction with his relentless pursuit for and handling of high-quality papers. He has served as area editor, editor-in-chief, and guest editor for numerous top journals. One letter commented: “it’s hard to think of anyone who compares to Jim’s service to the profession. In addition to all these achievements, Jim is a genuinely selfless individual who will go way out of his way to help others, . . . junior colleagues in particular.” Another states: “Jim has strong opinions on research, invariably for reasons based on clear mathematical or practical grounds, and I respect his views enormously. [. . .] The simulation community is far richer because of Jim’s incredible contributions over the course of a distinguished career.” Wilson’s refereeing work is legendary: doing the work of a co-author without attribution (but given his ferocious style and the depth of his reviews, hardly anonymously).

Finally, Prof. Wilson is regarded as the single individual most responsible for the continuing recognition of WSC as the premier simulation conference in the world. He has held every position in the program committee structure. In 2005, he received the WSC Board of Directors Award, after which the award was renamed “The James R. Wilson Board of Directors Award”. One letter writer gives an example: “The Winter Simulation Conference . . . was in dire financial straits . . . in the aftermath of the 9/11/2001 attacks. Jim (and others) organized an effort . . . to maintain the financial viability required for WSC to continue. . . . It is difficult to imagine the state of our field today, in the absence of [the] WSC.” This conference would not have had the opportunity to flourish as it has without Jim’s leadership. When we needed a leader most, Wilson stepped up. He was the guiding force and the inspirational and operational founder of the Fund to support the WSC, as well as the simulation archives at NCSU and the “pioneers of simulation” internet series.

The adjectives used in Prof. Wilson’s nominating letters are a thesaurus of synonyms for excellence. However, the one adjective that resonates throughout is “generous”. No single person has selflessly had more influence in the quality and integrity of simulation than Prof. James R. Wilson.

Perhaps the Selection Committee’s sentiments are best expressed in the words of one of the nomination letters: “Jim is one of those rare individuals who have contributed in so many different ways to the simulation community that it is difficult to imagine what this community would look like, in the absence of those efforts. I cannot imagine an individual more deserving of our field’s Lifetime Professional Achievement Award than Jim Wilson.”

2019 LPAA Selection Committee: Russell Cheng, David Goldsman, and Lee Schruben (Chair)
Susan M. Sanchez Receives the 2019 Distinguished Service Award

John Fowler (Chair), Doug Morrice, and Michael Fu

Susan M. Sanchez is eminently qualified for the I-Sim Distinguished Service Award, having provided over a quarter of a century of exceptional and sustained service to the simulation community. Dr. Sanchez has served in a variety of significant roles to warrant such a distinction. She was involved in the transition of the INFORMS College of Simulation to I-Sim, helped create the INFORMS WORMS Forum, and has been a steadfast supporter of women and minorities in the field. She served as the I-Sim Secretary/Treasurer (1998-2000), VP/President-Elect 2000-2002, and President 2002-2004. She has also served in several other I-Sim roles, including the Nominations Committee, as a Council member, Lifetime Professional Achievement Award Committee and Best Publication Award Committee. Her service on editorial boards in support of simulation research is also noteworthy. In the trenches, Dr. Sanchez has been a stalwart contributor to WSC, both as a presenter (including being a “Titan of Simulation”), as well as a volunteer supporter. For example, she served on the WSC Foundation Board of Directors as a Member (2016-2018) and Chair (2019), as well as on the WSC Board of Directors, ASA representative member (2004-2011) and Chair (2009). Her commitment to the ongoing success of the WSC is clearly demonstrated in such activities. Dr. Sanchez’s efforts have always been in the best interest of the simulation community and its members. The spirit of service that permeate her personal life are the very same ones that have made her a valued contributor to I-Sim and the broader simulation community. Simply put, she is a superb choice for the I-Sim Distinguished Service Award.
Yijie Peng, Michael Fu, Jian-Qiang Hu and Bernd Heidergott win the 2019 Outstanding Simulation Publication Award

Christine Currie (Chair), Christos Alexopoulos, and Pierre L’Ecuyer

The winners of the INFORMS Simulation Society Outstanding Publication Award for 2019 are Yijie Peng, Michael Fu, Jian-Qiang Hu and Bernd Heidergott for their article titled “A New Unbiased Stochastic Derivative Estimator for Discontinuous Sample Performances with Structural Parameters, Operations Research (2018).” This paper develops a general type of unbiased estimator for the derivative of a mathematical expectation with respect to a model parameter \( \theta \). Stochastic derivative estimation by simulation is a very important problem with a relatively long and rich history in the I-Sim community. It is very important in particular for sensitivity analysis and for stochastic optimization with respect to continuous decision parameters.

The best known methods for derivative estimation are infinitesimal perturbation analysis, the likelihood ratio method, and the weak derivative approach. Variants and hybrids of these methods have also been proposed over the last 30 years. However, a key challenge has been handling discontinuities in the sample performances for non-distributional parameters, which arise in a wide variety of applications, from financial engineering to production/inventory management.

In their paper, Peng, Fu, Hu, and Heidergott propose a new approach named the generalized likelihood ratio (GLR) method, capable of dealing with a large scope of discontinuities in a general framework. GLR expands the applicability of gradient estimation techniques in a systematic way, by generalizing the three methods mentioned above. It provides a single-run unbiased derivative estimator of an expectation with respect to \( \theta \) in the case where the sample performance measure is discontinuous with respect to \( \theta \) and its probability distribution as well as its support may also depend on \( \theta \). Many existing and new applications with discontinuities can potentially be treated by the new method in a unified manner. The paper opens up further topics for investigation. In follow-up work, the authors apply their method to calibrating parameters in misspecified stochastic models, estimating sensitivities of a distortion risk measure used in behavioral economics, estimating the derivative of a quantile, and training discontinuous artificial neural networks.

Congratulations for a deep, solid, and remarkable piece of work!
Qi Luo Receives the 2019 WSC Ph.D. Colloquium I-Sim Best MS/OR-Focused Student Paper Award

Canan G. Corlu, Communications Editor

The I-Sim best MS/OR-focused student paper is:

“Dynamic Congestion Pricing for Ridesourcing Traffic: A Simulation-Optimization Approach” by Qi Luo and Zhiyuan Huang (University of Michigan) and Henry Lam (Columbia University)

The winner is awarded $200 sponsored by I-Sim and ACM SIGSIM.

Carina Mieth, Lena Abu-El-Hajia, and Yu Jin Receive the 2019 CUMW WSC Diversity Awards

Eunhye Song, Chair of the Committee on Underrepresented Minorities and Women

To improve outreach and diversity among young researchers in the field of simulation, the INFORMS Simulation Society is proud to award sponsorship each year to assist graduate students to attend the Winter Simulation Conference (WSC). In 2019, we received double the past year's applications, which reflects increasing interest and participation from graduate students in the WSC. Among the strong pool of applicants, Carina Mieth (TU Dortmund), Lena Abu-El-Hajia (NCSU), and Yu Jin (U of Arkansas) were selected to be the winners. Each awardee has received an honorarium of $500.

2020 CALLS FOR PROPOSALS AND NOMINATIONS

2020 Lifetime Professional Achievement Award

David Goldsman

To recognize major contributions to the field of simulation that are sustained over most of a professional career, with the critical consideration being the total impact of those contributions on computer simulation, the INFORMS Simulation Society (I-Sim, http://connect.informs.org/simulation/home) has established the Lifetime Professional Achievement Award (LPAA). This award can be given at most once annually. An individual's contributions may fall in one or more of the following areas:

- contributions to research,
- contributions to practice,
- dissemination of knowledge,
• development of software or hardware,
• service to the profession, and
• advancement of the status or visibility of the field.

Anyone except current Award Committee members is eligible to win the award, although individuals selected for this award should normally be in or near their retirement. Persons cannot be nominated posthumously. A nomination will be fully considered in the year it was received. If unsuccessful the nominee will be reconsidered for up to two further years if not deceased. Once under consideration in a given year and if successful the award may be received posthumously. Nominations may be submitted by anyone (including self-nominations), but they may not be made anonymously. The burden of offering evidence of merit falls on the nominator. Each nomination should include:

- the nominee’s complete resumé;
- a clear-cut, comprehensive description of the nominee’s major contributions to the profession, with complete supporting documentation; and
- at least three, but no more than six, letters of endorsement providing evidence of the significance and magnitude of the nominee’s professional achievements. (Each endorsement letter must come from a single person.)

The committee may at its discretion widen those under consideration for the award to include other eligible persons who were not nominated under the nomination call process.

The deadline for nominations is September 1, 2020. Nominators should alert the committee chair (Dave Goldsman, sman@gatech.edu) of their forthcoming nomination at least one month prior to the deadline. The nomination should be submitted as a PDF file attachment to an email to the committee chair. Any questions should be directed to the committee chair.

A list of previous award recipients, and more details about the award process, can be found at http://connect.informs.org/simulation/awards/professional-achievement-award.

This year’s LPAA Award Committee consists of David Goldsman (chair, sman@gatech.edu), Lee Schruben, and James R. Wilson.

2020 Distinguished Service Award

Michael Fu

To recognize individuals who have provided long-standing, exceptional service to the simulation community, the INFORMS Simulation Society annually sponsors a Distinguished Service Award, given to at most one person each year. This award is for sustained service to the simulation community over at least fifteen to twenty years or longer, and acquitted with distinction. The concept of service for this award does not include teaching or research contributions. Areas of volunteer service include, for example: (i) elected offices in simulation societies; (ii) editorial responsibilities such as area editor or editor-in-chief, for simulation; (iii) responsibilities such as program chair, proceedings editor, general chair, or member of the program or...
organizing committee, for conferences involving simulation; (iv) appointed positions for simulation-related activities, such as newsletter editor or serving on committees; and (v) undertakings and actions that promote simulation.

Nominations for the award to be given in 2018 can be made by anyone and should be sent by September 1, 2020, to the Distinguished Service Award Committee Chair:

Michael C. Fu  
University of Maryland  
mfu@umd.edu

The other committee members are John Fowler (Arizona State University) and Susan Sanchez (Naval Postgraduate School).

Letters of nomination should identify the nominee’s areas of exceptional service, detailing the activities for which the nominee is believed to deserve this award. The nominator has the responsibility for justifying why the nominee should receive this award. If given, the award will be presented at the Winter Simulation Conference, December 13 – 16, 2020: http://www.wintersim.org.

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**2020 Outstanding Simulation Publication Award**

*Pierre L’Ecuyer*

To recognize outstanding contributions to the simulation literature, the INFORMS Simulation Society annually sponsors an Outstanding Simulation Publication Award. Nominations for the award to be given in 2020 should be sent by September 1, 2020 to the Awards Committee Chair:

Pierre L’Ecuyer  
DIRO, Université de Montréal  
lecuyer@iro.umontreal.ca  
http://www.iro.umontreal.ca/ lecuyer/

The other committee members are Christine Currie (University of Southampton) and Jian-Qiang Hu (Fudan University, China)

Anyone is eligible to win the award. Journal articles, proceedings articles, books, book chapters, and monographs copyrighted in 2017, 2018 and 2019 and written in English are eligible for the award. Technical reports, research memoranda, working papers, theses, and dissertations are not eligible. Nominations for the award may be made by anyone, including the author(s), but they may not be made anonymously. Nominations should include:

- a copy of the written work, including all bibliographical information (in the case of books, the Awards Committee will obtain copies);
- a short statement suitable for reading at the award ceremony if the work is chosen; and
- any other information thought relevant by the nominator.

If given, the Outstanding Simulation Publication Award will be presented at the Winter Simulation Conference, Orlando, Florida, USA, December 13-16, 2020.
Award carries with it a cash prize of $500. A list of previous winners is available at the web site: http://connect.informs.org/simulation/awards/simulation-publication-award/awardees.

2020 CUMW WSC Diversity Award
Sara Shashaani

In order to improve outreach and diversity among young researchers in the field of simulation, the INFORMS Simulation Society is proud to award sponsorship each year to assist graduate students to attend the Winter Simulation Conference (WSC). We especially encourage applications from women, underrepresented minorities, international students, or students who may add to the diversity of the community in other ways. The WSC Diversity Committee is looking forward to receiving high-quality applications for the 2020 WSC meeting in December.

Please download the following application form with instructions on how to apply. https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/INFORMS/ef27cc87-0593-4a9b-85b3-52b5bbeae306/UploadedImages/DiversityAwardForm2020.pdf

A complete application package consists of this form, a letter of intent written by the applicant, and a letter of recommendation written by an adviser.

Please send applications by September 15th to the Awards Committee Chair:

Sara Shashaani
Assistant Professor
Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
North Carolina State University
sshasha2@ncsu.edu

I-SIM BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

INFORMS Simulation Society Business Meeting:
2019 Winter Simulation Conference, National Harbor, Maryland, December 8, 2019
Susan R. Hunter

For details on many items from these minutes, see the Spring 2020 I-Sim newsletter at http://connect.informs.org/simulation/simulation-resources/newsletter.

At 6:21pm Raghu Pasupathy, President of the Society, called the meeting to order.
At 6:22pm everyone introduced themselves.
At 6:27pm Raghu Pasupathy recognized the officers, council, and committee members and thanked them for their service.
At 6:29pm John Fowler discussed the 10th Simulation Workshop in Loughborough University, UK.
At 6:29pm Russell Barton discussed the 6th I-Sim Workshop in June at Penn State.
The Simulation Summer School is aimed at junior faculty and Ph.D. students. There is some funding for those wishing to attend. If you want to attend but have not heard from the committee yet, please contact the organizers.

At 6:31pm Raghu Pasupathy announced the INFORMS Analytics Conference and the IISE Annual Conference & Expo. For more conference announcements, see the Spring newsletter.

At 6:32pm the officer and committee reports began.

- Susan Hunter gave the Secretary’s Report.
- Jie Xu gave the Treasurer’s report; everything is balanced.
- John Shortle gave the report for the nominations committee. They are looking for input for nominees for vice president / president elect, treasurer, secretary, and two council members.

At 6:34pm the journal editor reports began.

- Bruno Tuffin gave the INFORMS JOC editors report. He thanks the associate editors and encourages you to submit your best papers.
- John Fowler gave the report for the Journal of Simulation. As always, send your best work.
- Ilya Ryzhov gave the report for IISE Transactions on behalf of Jiaqiao Hu.
- Jeff Hong gave the report for Operations Research. The desk would like to see more papers related to applications.
- Shane Henderson gave the report for Stochastic Systems. The median return time is 90 days, which is what they aim for.

At 6:38pm Raghu Pasupathy called for new business. There was none.

At 6:38pm the president began the awards:

- Sheldon Jacobson was recognized as a 2019 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).
- At 6:40pm, Raghu Pasupathy presented the WSC PhD Colloquium awards on behalf of Weiwei Chen. There were 19 final year student submissions accepted. The winner of the PhD Colloquium I-Sim Award goes to Qi Luo for the paper, “Dynamic Congestion Pricing for Ridesourcing Traffic: A Simulation-Optimization Approach.”
- At 6:48pm John Fowler presented the 2019 DSA to Susan M. Sanchez.
- At 6:53pm Lee Schruben presented the LPAA award to James R. Wilson.

At 7:28pm Raghu Pasupathy called for adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned.

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

Susan R. Hunter susanhunter<of>purdue.edu
I-SIM BALLOTS

I-Sim Elections Ballot
John Shortle, Past President

I-Sim is holding elections for the following offices:

- Vice-President/President-Elect
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Council (2 positions)

The Vice-President / President-Elect serves for six years – two years as Vice-President, two years as President, and two years as Past President. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Council members all serve two-year terms. There are four council members in total, serving on a rotating basis (two elected each year). Per the I-Sim Bylaws, at least one council member elected during an even year must be from outside the United States. All positions start July 1, 2020.

To vote in the election, please return the ballot below by e-mail to:
Susan Hunter, I-Sim Secretary
E-Mail: susanhunter@purdue.edu

The deadline to submit a ballot is June 20, 2020. Please include the words “I-Sim Ballot” in the subject line.

The nominations committee includes John Shortle (chair), David Goldsman, and Shane Henderson.

The candidates are presented in alphabetical order.

**VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT** (vote for one)

- Jie Xu
- Enlu Zhou

**TREASURER** (vote for one)

- Canan Gunes Corlu
- Wei Xie

**SECRETARY** (vote for one)

- Ilya Ryzhov
- Bruno Tuffin

**COUNCIL** (vote for up to two)

- Angel Juan
Candidate Biographies

VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT

JIE XU is an Associate Professor of Systems Engineering and Operations Research at George Mason University. He received a Ph.D. degree in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences from Northwestern University in 2009. His research interests include simulation optimization and data analytics, with interdisciplinary applications in power systems, manufacturing, cloud computing, health care, and transportation systems. He is currently the I-Sim treasurer (2018-2020) and served as I-Sim’s associate communications editor from 2014 to 2018. For the Winter Simulation Conference, he has served as a track co-chair six times (2016-2018 simulation optimization, 2015 big data simulation and decision making, 2013-2014 general poster session). He is an associate editor for the Journal of Simulation and the Asia-Pacific Journal of Operational Research. He also guest edited the Flexible Service and Manufacturing Journal 2019 special issue on Simulation-Optimization in Manufacturing and Services. His research has been sponsored by NSF, AFOSR, DOE, Argonne/UC, Jeffress Trust Awards Program in Interdisciplinary Research, ORAU, 4-VA, ONR, National Cancer Institute of France, and National Natural Science Foundation of China. He is a recipient of the Operational Research Society's Tocher Medal for the best paper published in the Journal of Simulation in 2015 and 2016.

ENLU ZHOU is an Associate Professor in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. She received a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2009. Her research interests include simulation optimization, stochastic control, and machine learning. Within the INFORMS Simulation Society, she served as the Associate Communications Editor from 2011 to 2014, Council Member from 2014 to 2016, and Secretary from 2016 to 2018. She was a WSC Proceedings Co-Editor in 2016, track coordinator for WSC in 2011 and 2020, and a regular program committee member for WSC. She has been or is currently an associate editor for the Journal of Simulation, IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control, and Operations Research. She is a recipient of the Best Theoretical Paper award at WSC, an AFOSR Young Investigator award, and an NSF CAREER award.
SECRETARY

ILYA O. RYZHOV is an Associate Professor of Operations Management in the Decision, Operations and Information Technologies department of the Robert H. Smith School of Business, with a joint appointment in the Institute for Systems Research, all at the University of Maryland. His research primarily focuses on simulation optimization and statistical learning, with applications in business analytics, revenue management, and nonprofit/humanitarian operations. He is a coauthor of the book *Optimal Learning* (Wiley, 2012). His work was recognized in WSC’s Best Theoretical Paper Award competition on three separate occasions (winner in 2012, finalist in 2009 and 2016), and he received I-SIM’s Outstanding Publication Award in 2017. He served on the I-SIM Council during 2018-2019, and on the I-SIM Membership Committee during 2012-2018.

BRUNO TUFFIN received a Ph.D. degree in applied mathematics from the University of Rennes 1 (France) in 1997. Since then, he has been with INRIA in Rennes. He also spent eight months as a postdoc at Duke University in 1999. His research interests include the design of Monte Carlo and quasi-Monte Carlo simulation techniques for the performance evaluation of telecommunication systems, and developing telecommunication-related economic models. He has published close to 200 papers on those issues. He has written or co-written two books devoted to simulation: “Rare event simulation using Monte Carlo methods”, published by John Wiley & Sons in 2009, and “La simulation de Monte Carlo” (in French), published by Hermes Editions in 2010, as well as one on networks economics: “Telecommunication Network Economics: From Theory to Applications” published by Cambridge University Press in 2014. He has also led or participated into several French and European projects, and co-organized several conferences. He is currently an Area Editor for the INFORMS Journal on Computing and an Associate Editor for ACM Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation. More information can be found on his web page [http://www.irisa.fr/dionysos/pages_personnel/tuffin/Tuffin.htm](http://www.irisa.fr/dionysos/pages_personnel/tuffin/Tuffin.htm)

TREASURER

CANAN GUNES CORLU is an Associate Professor in the Department of Administrative Sciences at Metropolitan College, Boston University. She received her Ph.D. in Operations Management from the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University. Her research is in the area of simulation-based optimization and data analytics with applications in operations management. She also uses simulation to address problems in supply chain management. Her work was recognized by the INFORMS Minority Issues Forum Best Paper Competition in 2017 and 2018. She is the recipient of the INFORMS Simulation Society Committee for Underrepresented Minorities and Women (CUMW) award in 2009. She has been serving as I-Sim’s Communications Editor since 2018. She served as the treasurer of the INFORMS Junior Faculty Interest Group (JFIG) from 2016 to 2020. She has been a program committee member for the WSC Logistics, Supply Chain Management, and Transportation track, as well as Modeling Methodology track since 2011. This year, she is co-chairing the Model Uncertainty and Robust Simulation track. She is an associate editor for the Journal of Simulation and an editorial board member of the Journal of Business Analytics.
WEI XIE is an assistant professor at Northeastern University. She received her Ph.D. degree in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences from Northwestern University in 2014. Her research interests focus on interpretable Artificial Intelligence (AI), the internet of things, computer simulation, data integrity and big data analytics, design of experiments, model-based reinforcement learning, data-driven stochastic optimization, digital twin and blockchain development for complex end-to-end cyber-physical system learning, and risk management with applications, including biopharmaceuticals development and manufacturing, industrial hemp production and supply chains, smart power grids with distributed renewable energy and battery storage, and 3D printing. Dr. Xie received the 2015 Outstanding Publication Award from the INFORMS Simulation Society. She currently serves as an Associate Editor for ACM Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation and on the Technical Activity Committee (TAC) for the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL). She also served as the WSC Diversity Committee/Chair from 2015 – 2018 and Track Coordinator for the Analysis Methodology track from 2018 to the present.

COUNCIL
ANGEL JUAN is a Full Professor of Operations Research and Industrial Engineering in the Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunication Department at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Barcelona, Spain). He has been a Visiting Researcher/Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Southampton, University of Portsmouth, Technical University of Dortmund, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, LAAS-CNRS, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, and University of Bologna. His main research interests include applications of data analytics and optimization-simulation algorithms in computational transport and logistics, bioinformatics, and computational finance. He has published 80+ articles in JCR-indexed journals and 195+ documents indexed in Scopus. He has been general co-chair of several international conferences including the Metaheuristics International Conference and the International Conference on Risk Analysis. He has served as Proceedings Editor of the Winter Simulation Conference. He is an Editorial Board member of the Journal of Simulation, the European Journal of Industrial Engineering, the International Journal of Data Analysis Techniques and Strategies, the Journal of Computer Science, the International Journal of Information Systems and Social Change, and the International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education.

DASHI SINGHAM is a Research Associate Professor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. Since 2010, she researches, teaches, and advises students in the Operations Research Department. Dashi has been interested in simulation research since her undergraduate studies. She studied Operations Research and Financial Engineering at Princeton University where she conducted independent research as an undergraduate, and then built simulation models as a risk analyst after graduation. Dashi has been active in the INFORMS Simulation Society community since graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley, where she obtained her
EUNHYE SONG is the Harold and Inge Marcus Early Career Assistant Professor in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering at the Penn State University. She earned her Ph.D. degree in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences at Northwestern University in 2017 and M.S. and B.S. degrees in Industrial and Systems Engineering at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) in 2012 and 2010, respectively. Her research interests include design of simulation experiments, input uncertainty quantification, and simulation optimization in the presence of model risk. Her research on large-scale discrete simulation optimization has been funded by the National Science Foundation. She has collaborated with Simio as a part of an NSF GOALI project on developing a statistical tool to quantify input uncertainty, which is now a standard part of Simio’s software product. She has also worked with General Motors’ R&D group on global sensitivity analysis of the Vehicle Content Optimization simulator, which GM uses to find the optimal vehicle content portfolios of their major vehicle lines to maximize GM’s market share and profit. She is an active member of the INFORMS Simulation Society and has served on their Diversity Committee since 2018.

XIAOWEI ZHANG is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University of Hong Kong. He received his Ph.D. in Management Science and Engineering and an M.S. in Financial Mathematics, both from Stanford University, and a B.S. in Mathematics from Nankai University. His research interests include stochastic simulation, decision analytics, statistical learning, and mathematical finance. His research work has been published in top journals such as Management Science, Mathematics of Operations Research, and IIE Transactions. He is currently an associate editor of the Asia-Pacific Journal of Operations Research and a guest associate editor of Naval Research Logistics. He has also served in various capacities in organizing the Winter Simulation Conference (WSC), including as a Track Coordinator for the Financial Risk Management Track of WSC 2019, and as a Program Committee member for the Simulation Optimization Track of WSC 2016 through WSC 2020. He is a member of the INFORMS Simulation Society and the Applied Probability Society.
UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Event Calendar
Canan G. Corlu


Announcements
Jennifer Lather

Through some discussions about simulation and modeling in the ACM SIG-SIM group, it was identified that it would be potentially beneficial to share resources across our simulation and modeling community to aid in research, education, and outreach of healthcare and epidemiological modeling during the COVID-19 outbreak. In order to support this, we have started a COVID-19 Simulation and Modeling Task Force. If you have resources, conduct research in this area, and/or provide education to future engineers and scientists on the use of modeling for disease planning or healthcare in general, I welcome you to join this group. Currently the task force is in formation phase, and we would love your involvement in any capacity. We have an initial website hosted on SCE’s domain website: https://covid-sim-tf.sce.carleton.ca/. Please join both the mailing list and the slack channel. If you have more questions feel free to contact me directly: lather@unl.edu.