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INSTITUTE FOR OPERATIONS RESEARCH

AND THE MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

I-Sim Newsletter

President's Message

Enlu Zhou

I am pleased to announce that I-SIM maintained a strong presence at recent conferences, successfully organizing a simulation track at the 2025 INFORMS Annual Meeting and being well represented at the 2025 Winter Simulation Conference (WSC). Additionally, I-SIM played an active role in co-sponsoring and participating in the ML x OR Workshop at the 2025 NeurIPS conference. As in previous years, during the I-SIM business meeting at WSC 2025, we proudly presented five major society awards:

- **Lifetime Professional Achievement Award:** Dennis Pegden (Simio)
- **Distinguished Service Award:** Michael Kuhl (Rochester Institute of Technology)
- **Outstanding Publication Award:** Ye Chen (Bowling Green State University) and Ilya Ryzhov (University of Maryland, College Park)
- **WSC Diversity Award:** Jaime Gonzalez-Hodar (Georgia Tech), Akshita Gupta (Purdue), Negar Sadeghi (Northeastern), Aparna Venkataraman (University of Queensland and IIT Delhi)
- **Sargent Simulation Scholarship:** Yuhao Wang (Georgia Tech)

Congratulations are extended to all award recipients. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the award committees for their dili-

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President's Message, Continued

Enlu Zhou

gent work in soliciting nominations and selecting awardees from an exceptionally competitive group of candidates. This newsletter provides further details regarding the awardees and includes a call for nominations for the 2026 awards.

During the WSC business meeting, I-SIM approved two business actions. The first was to create the WSC Travel Awards, which are designed to encourage new members to attend WSC and join I-SIM. These awards prioritize postdoctoral researchers and assistant professors attending WSC for the first time, covering their registration fee and providing a one-year membership. The second action was to increase membership dues: regular dues will rise from $10 to $20, retired member dues from $5 to $10, while student dues remain at $0. This adjustment is intended to help cover rising food and beverage costs at business meetings and to align with the dues of other INFORMS societies.

I'm also happy to share the news that I-SIM has received a $5,000 contribution designated for the WSC '25 Diversity Awards, as well as a subsequent endowment to support the WSC Diversity Award. We extend our sincere appreciation to the anonymous donor(s) for their generosity.

Finally, I invite you to take part in the upcoming election for I-SIM officer positions. Details about the candidates and the voting process are provided at the end of this newsletter. The officers have a significant impact on guiding our society's future, so please remember to vote.

Have a fantastic summer! I hope to see many of you at the INFORMS Annual Meeting in San Francisco this fall.

□

Editor's Corner

Wei Xie

I would like to thank the I-Sim Officers and Committees for providing timely updates on the I-Sim

business matters. Enjoy the newsletter!

□

Treasurer's Report

David Eckman

Beginning Balance (1/1/2025)	$134,706.66	
Total Revenue	$5,689.59	
• Dues		$1,949.15
• Interest*		$3,740.44
Total Expenses	$1,683.65	
• Local Meeting (WSC 2025)		$425.00
• Membership Expense		$258.65
• Cash Award Expense		$1,000.00
Net Gain / Loss	$4,005.94	
Ending Balance** (11/30/2025)	$138,712.60	

* INFORMS is now earning interest on the funds in our bank account and is sharing that interest with the subdivisions in proportion to their fund balance.

** The I-Sim account includes $20,750 that belongs to the liability account shared by all four WSC sponsors (see Fall 2012 newsletter).

At the I-SIM business meeting at the 2025 Winter Simulation Conference, the members voted to increase the society's annual membership dues to $20 for regular members, $0 for student members, and $10 for retired members. These new rates are in effect for 2026.

□

Secretary's Corner

Eunhye Song

As of October 31, 2025, we have 731 members, of whom 458 are students and 209 members have addresses outside the United States.

- 2019 (end of year): 1102 (703 students)
- 2020 (November): 529 (195 students)
- 2021 (October): 422 (97 students)
- 2022 (October): 566 (220 students)
- 2023 (September): 573 (250 students)
- 2024 (September): 623 (340 students)
- 2025 (October): 731 (458 students)

□

EDITORS' REPORTS

Report on *Operations Research*

Sandeep Juneja, Operations Research Simulation Area Editor

Activity Period: December 3, 2024 to December 2, 2025

34 new submissions; 4 resubmissions; 15 editorial decisions, including 9 rejections, 4 major revision, 2 reject and resubmit, 0 minor revision and 0 acceptances.

Of the 15 editorial decisions made in this period, 11 were on time (less than 4 months from the date of submission), 3 were late (between 4 and 6 months) and 1 was very late (6 months or more). The average review time was 95 days.

I would like to thank the Associate Editor team, **Jing Dong, Shane Henderson, Susan R. Hunter, Kyoung-Kuk Kim, Henry Lam, Karthyek Rajhaa Annaswamy Murthy, Ilya O. Ryzhov, Xiaowei Zhang and Zeyu Zheng** for their wonderful service to the journal.

Please submit your best papers to OR! □

Report on *INFORMS Journal on Computing*

Shane Henderson, Area Editor: Simulation, Stochastic Models and Stochastic Optimization

Bruno Tuffin ended 10 years as Simulation Area Editor at IJOC in December 2025. If you submitted your paper before the end of his term, then he is still handling your paper. We owe him our thanks for a long-running contribution to our field. Thanks, Bruno! Thanks also to those Associate Editors who worked under Bruno's leadership – Zdravko Botev, David Eckman, Henry Lam, Ilya Ryzhov, Eunhye Song, and Wei Xie.

In January 2026 Andrea Lodi took over as the new Editor-in-Chief of IJOC. He decided to merge two previous areas, one of which was the Simulation area, and asked me to serve as area editor for the new area. The new area handles the same kinds of simulation submissions as before, just under a broader envelope. In more detail, the new area seeks research in computational aspects of the union of the stated areas in its name (see above). The umbrella term "stochastic optimization" should be broadly construed, including, e.g., stochastic dynamic programming, reinforcement learning, stochastic linear and integer programming, and simulation optimization. Both methodological and modeling work is welcome. These areas are mature, so we also welcome papers at the interface of these areas and other methodological areas or applications. Papers that are based primarily on mathematical programming or supervised/unsupervised learning should be submitted to another area of the journal. Clear and concise exposition and rigorous execution are defining elements of successful articles.

The associate editors in the area are David Brown, Xinyun Chen, Jing Dong, Doug Down, David Eckman, Rui Gao, Ilya Ryzhov, Vahid Sarhangian, Eunhye Song, and Adam Wierman. You'll note that several of these people are continuing from the previous term in the two areas that merged, for which I am grateful. And of course

I'm glad to have the new recruits! Complete instructions for preparing manuscripts are available at https://pubsonline.informs.org/journal/ijoc. Submit electronically through Manuscript Central: https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijoc.

As of February 9 2026 and since the inception of the Simulation, Stochastic Models and Stochastic Optimization area of the INFORMS Journal on Computing (IJOC), the area has received 6 new submissions. During this period, there have not been any editorial decisions. □

Report on *IISE Transactions*

Ilya Ryzhov, Simulation and Analytics Department Editor

Since last year, IISE Transactions has undergone a restructuring. There is now a single Modeling, Simulation, and Analytics department with three editors: Natarajan Gautam (Syracuse), Ilya Ryzhov (Maryland), and Jun Zhuang (Buffalo). Associate Editors are no longer assigned to a specific department, but can handle any submission depending on expertise. Simulation continues to be represented on the editorial board by Jie Xu (George Mason), and more recently Siyang Gao (City U. Hong Kong). Their contributions to the journal are gratefully acknowledged. □

Report on *Naval Research Logistics*

Jeff Hong, Simulation Department Editor

Activity Period: August 15, 2024 to December 5, 2025

The new Simulation Department started in August 2024. We aim to shorten the overall review time by reducing the number of rounds.

28 new submissions, 6 resubmissions; 26 editorial decisions, including 12 rejections, 8 major revision, 1 minor revision, 4 acceptance, 1 withdrawal. The average review time is 93.6 days (with only 1 paper over 6 months).

The 4 accepted papers had one revision (3) and two revisions (1).

I would like to thank the Associate Editor team, Ben Feng, Shane Henderson, Guangwu Liu, Jun Luo, Xiaowei Zhang and Zeyu Zheng, for their wonderful service to the journal.

Please send your simulation papers to NRL! □

Report on *ACM TOMACS*

Wentong Cai, ACM TOMACS Editor

ACM Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation (TOMACS) is widely recognized as a primary outlet for the best research contributions referring to all phases of the modelling and simulation life cycle. It has a reputation for publishing methodological work in the areas of modelling and simulation and is an important venue for publishing research works that lie at the **intersection of the computer science and the operation research fields.** The subjects of emphasis are **discrete event simulation, combined discrete and continuous simulation, as well as Monte Carlo methods.** TOMACS strives to enhance the understanding, improve the

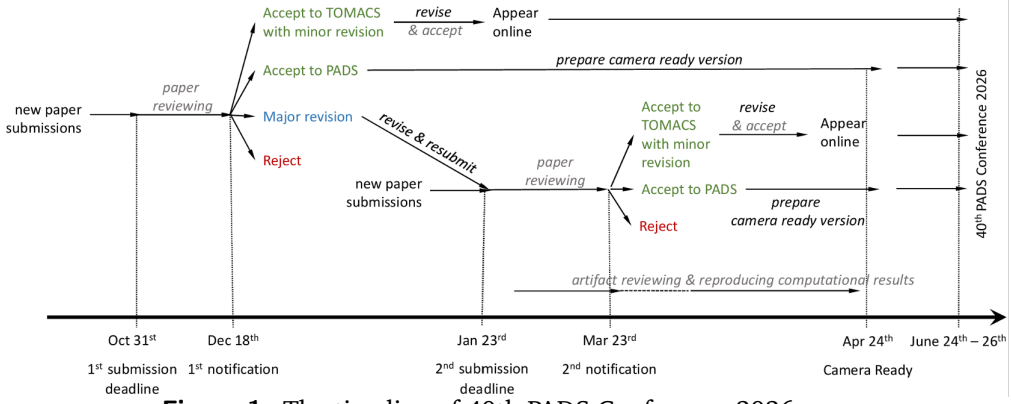


Figure 1. The timeline of 40th PADS Conference 2026.

practice, and increase the utilization of computer simulation.

During this year TOMACS had **127** new submissions with acceptance rate of **15%** (including desk rejects). The four volumes published this year provide to the readers a total of **25** articles.

To position TOMACS articles in the role of solid references for the community, TOMACS promotes Reproducibility Initiative and has a **State of the Art and Open Challenges** (STAROC) series. You can check for detailed information at https://dl.acm.org/journal/tomacs.

TOMACS achieved an increase from 0.7 to 1.9 in its impact factor in the latest Journal Citation Reports release from Clarivate Analytics. It is now ranked in 1st quartile in the category of Applied Mathematics (70/343).

The selected outstanding papers submitted to SIGSIM PADS can now be accepted for publication directly in a special issue of TOMACS, and the timeline is shown in Figure 1. This collaboration signifies a streamlined and efficient pathway for authors to share their groundbreaking research in the realm of advanced discrete simulation (https://dl.acm.org/journal/tomacs/announcements#pads_to_tomacs). □

Report on *Stochastic Systems*

Devavrat Shah, Editor-in-Chief

Editorial Leadership: I was appointed as Editor-in-Chief (EiC) in 2023, special thanks to Shane for his contributions.

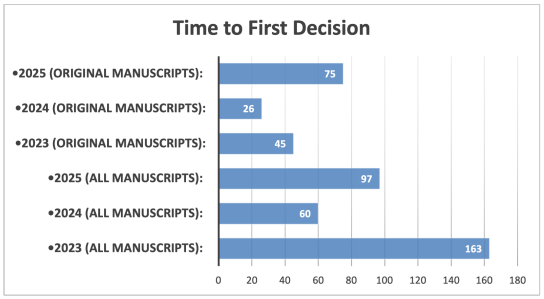
Key changes: Conference to Journal Policy. Expanded consideration policy – submissions are welcome unless identical to conference versions.

New Area Structure: The journal will now cover a broader range of topics beyond queuing systems.

Please reach out to devavrat@mit.edu to: 1) Become a **Reviewer** and 2) **Apply** or **Nominate** for an **Associate Editor (AE)** position.

Average Time to First Decision:

- **2025 (Original Manuscripts):** 75 days
- **2024 (Original Manuscripts):** 26 days
- **2023 (Original Manuscripts):** 45 days
- **2025 (All Manuscripts):** 97 days
- **2024 (All Manuscripts):** 60 days
- **2023 (All Manuscripts):** 163 days



The average time to first decision.

Manuscripts Submitted After Jan 1, 2025

Decision	New Manuscripts	All Manuscripts
Immediate Accept	–	2 (3.9%)
Accepted	–	5 (9.8%)
Major Revision	11 (30.6%)	12 (23.5%)
Minor Revision	6 (16.7%)	11 (21.6%)
Reject	5 (13.9%)	7 (13.7%)
Immediate Reject	14 (38.9%)	14 (27.5%)

□

Report on the *Journal of Simulation*

Nav Mustafee, Editor

EiCs: Charles Macal, Navonil Mustafee, Claudia Szabo, and Enlu Zhou


Professor Reda Lebcir

We were deeply saddened to learn last week of the passing of **Professor Reda Lebcir**. Reda had only recently joined the Journal of Simulation (JOS) as an Associate Editor, contributing his expertise in System Dynamics and healthcare. Though his time in this role was brief, his presence was immediately valued, and we already feel the loss of his insight, collegiality, and commitment to the journal. Born in Algeria, he held a Bachelor of Engineering in Industrial Engineering from the High School of Engineering in Algeria, an MSc in Operational Research from the London School of Economics, and a PhD in Management Science from Imperial College London.


Prof. Dr.-Ing. Markus Rabe

We remember **Prof. Dr.-Ing. Markus Rabe**, who served for many years as an Associate Editor in Production and Logistics and as a member of the JOS Editorial Advisory Board. Professor Rabe, who passed away in August 2025, was a leading figure in simulation-based production and logistics. Markus was born in Tübingen in Germany, he studied physics in the University of Konstanz and completed his doctorate at TU Berlin, before a distinguished career at the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Systems and Design Technology. Since 2010, he was Professor of IT in Production and Logistics at TU

Dortmund University. Markus is remembered with great respect for his scholarship, leadership, and dedicated service to the simulation community.

The KD Tocher Medal, awarded by the UK Operational Research Society, recognises the most outstanding contribution to the philosophy, theory or practice of simulation published in the Journal of Simulation over a two-year period. **The 2025 KD Tocher Medal** was awarded to Lucy Morgan, Andrew Titman, Dave Worthington and Barry L Nelson for their paper, "A spline function method for modelling and generating a nonhomogeneous poisson process" (https://doi.org/10.1080/17477778.2023.2224928).

We report **key performance indicators for the end of 2025**. The current acceptance rate stands at 8% (47% of reviewed submissions accepted in 2024). The time from submission to first post-review decision was under 100 days. The median time from submission to acceptance has decreased significantly, from 394 days in 2024 to 276 days in 2025. Article downloads have remained strong, exceeding 60,000 annually between 2020 and 2024, and increasing to 89,000 in 2025.

In concluding this report, we would like to remind the readers that JOS is a journal of the UK Operational Research Society published by Taylor & Francis. We publish theoretical and methodological papers that span the breadth of the simulation process, including both modelling and analysis methodologies, as well as practical papers from a wide range of simulation applications. Application-focused papers tend to be original research on methodological and technological advances that represent significant progress toward applying simulation modelling (which often includes a case study). We also welcome literature reviews, technical notes and topics that are not mainstream but are considered evocative to the simulation community. □

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 INFORMS Optimization Society Conference

March 20–22, 2026, The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta, Georgia

Susan R. Hunter (source: https://ios2026.isye.gatech.edu/)

"The theme of IOS 2026 is "Optimization at the Interface of Data, Decisions, and Society."

The program will feature plenary lectures by distinguished scholars, a broad range of invited and contributed sessions, and ample opportunities for interdisciplinary networking and collaboration." □

INFORMS Analytics+ Conference

April 12–14, 2026, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland

Susan R. Hunter (source: https://meetings.informs.org/wordpress/analytics/)

"Sharpen your skills, broaden your horizons and accelerate your career at Analytics+, where data meets decision-making. Network and swap ideas with the most accomplished professionals in the field of advanced analytics." □

2026 IISE Annual Conference & Expo

May 16–19, 2026, Loews Arlington Hotel, Arlington, Texas

Susan R. Hunter (source: https://iise.org/Annual/)

"Present at the IISE Annual Conference & Expo 2026 and connect with the professionals who understand the complexity and impact of industrial and systems engineering. Share your research, solutions, and innovations with professionals and students who recognize what you accomplish every day." □

SIAM Conference on Optimization (OP26)

June 2–5, 2026, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Susan R. Hunter (source: https://www.siam.org/conferences-events/siam-conferences/op26/)

siam 2026 | Conference on Optimization

"The SIAM Conference on Optimization showcases the latest research in the theory, algorithms, software, and applications of optimization. The conference serves as a platform for specialists and users of optimization in academia, government, and industry to

collaborate and share insights. ” □

MCQMC 2026: 17th International Conference on Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods

June 8–12, 2026, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Susan R. Hunter (source: https://maths.ed.ac.uk/events/mcqmc-2026)

“Important Dates: First call for special sessions, contributed talks: **November 2025**

Special sessions submission deadline: **January 2026**

Contributed abstracts submission deadline: **March 2026**

Acceptance notification: **February 2026**” □

ICML 2026 Forty-Third International Conference on Machine Learning

July 6–12, 2026, COEX Convention & Exhibition Center, Hamburg, Germany

Susan R. Hunter (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.” □

2026 I-SIM Research Workshop

July 31–August 3, 2026, NC State University, Raleigh, North Carolina

Sara Shashaani (source: https://isim2026.ise.ncsu.edu)

We are excited to announce the 2026 I-SIM Research Workshop, which will be held July 31–August 3, 2026 at NC State University in Raleigh, North Carolina!

I-SIM is a long-standing biannual workshop bringing together leading scholars in stochastic simulation, optimization, and applied probability. The theme of I-SIM 2026 is “Simulation in the Age of Digital Twins and AI.” This year’s workshop focuses on the rapidly evolving interaction between simulation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data-driven decision-making. The workshop aims to advance foundational research directions in AI-enabled simulation and digital twin systems while fostering broader engagement with researchers across the NC Triangle region and beyond.

The workshop will feature plenary talks, invited technical presentations, a digital twin panel discussion including researchers from SAS and other industry and academic leaders, and a Simulation Summer School with tutorial lectures on the final day. The current list of confirmed speakers and additional workshop details can be found on the workshop website. We are also organizing two special issues associated with the workshop — one at ACM Transactions on Modeling and Computer Simulation

(TOMACS) and one at the Journal of Simulation — with additional details to be announced soon.

We are especially excited to introduce the first-ever poster session at the I-SIM Workshop and warmly encourage graduate students, industry researchers, postdoctoral scholars, and early-career faculty to submit poster abstracts and share emerging ideas and ongoing work with the community. Outstanding posters may also be recognized with poster awards. If you plan to present a poster, please use the abstract submission form available on the workshop website and select the "Poster" submission type when submitting your abstract. There may also be limited travel support available, with priority given to junior researchers.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors, the NC State College of Engineering and the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. If you are interested in sponsoring the event or participating in our industry-focused digital twin panel discussion to share practical challenges and opportunities with the research community, please feel free to reach out to us.

We look forward to seeing you in Raleigh!

I-SIM 2026 Organizers,

Sara Shashaani, Hong Wan, Giovanni Amici □

2026 INFORMS Annual Meeting

November 1–4, 2026, Moscone Center and Marriott Marquis San Francisco San Francisco, California

Susan R. Hunter (source: https://meetings.informs.org/wordpress/annual/)

"Join us at the Moscone Center South & Marriott Marquis San Francisco, where more than 6,000 INFORMS members, students, prospective employers and employees, and academic and industry experts will share the ways O.R. and analytics are fueling **Smarter Decisions for a Better World**." □

2026 Winter Simulation Conference

December 6–9, 2026, Scottish Event Campus Ltd & Crowne Plaza Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland

Susan R. Hunter (source: https://meetings.informs.org/wordpress/wsc2026/)

"**The Winter Simulation Conference 2026 will focus on one of the most pressing challenges confronting humanity - Building resilience in the face of climate change.** The organizers invite papers highlighting the latest advances in simulation theory and applications that showcase the current state-of-the-art, including novel research with a focus on climate resilience. We particularly encourage submissions that demonstrate simulation excellence across a wide range of domains, including but not limited to aviation, disaster response, education, energy, finance, healthcare, infrastructure, manufacturing, national security and supply chains. The conference will feature a special track on

"Simulation for Climate Resilience", dedicated to papers that explore innovative uses of simulation to understand, assess, and enhance the resilience of systems facing climate-related challenges. " □

The Fortieth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2026)

December 6–12, 2026, Sydney, Australia

Susan R. Hunter (source: https://neurips.cc)

Details TBD □

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

C. Dennis Pegden Receives the 2025 Lifetime Professional Achievement Award

David Goldsman (Chair), Barry L. Nelson, and Russell R. Barton


David Goldsman (left) and C. Dennis Pegden (right)

The INFORMS Simulation Society (I-Sim) is delighted to announce that Dr. C. Dennis Pegden, Chief Product Officer of Simio LLC, was selected as the recipient of the 2025 Lifetime Professional Achievement Award (LPAA). This award represents the Society's highest honor, granted annually since 1998 to individuals whose sustained career contributions have had a profound and enduring impact on the field of computer simulation. Dennis's work has not only advanced simulation theory and practice but has also fundamentally shaped how simulation is taught, understood, and deployed across academia, industry, and government.

Contributions to Research

Dennis's research career began at Purdue University, where he earned his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering in 1975, following bachelor's and master's degrees in Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineering. His early academic roles at the University of Alabama–Huntsville (1975–1979) and Penn State University (1979–1987) were marked by influential contributions to discrete-event modeling, hybrid modeling methodologies, and the formalization of simulation concepts that later became embedded in commercial tools.

Throughout his academic career, Dennis has emphasized the importance of bridging rigorous modeling foundations with practical usability. His research on simulation architecture and modeling abstractions laid essential groundwork for the development of integrated simulation environments, decades before such concepts became standard.

Contributions to Practice

Dennis's impact on practice is unparalleled. In 1982, he founded Systems Modeling Corporation, where he served as CEO until its acquisition by Rockwell Automation in 2000. His leadership guided the deployment of simulation technology across manufacturing, logistics, defense, and service industries. At Rockwell Software (2000–2003), he continued to influence the evolution of simulation tools that enabled engineers to solve complex systems problems at scale.

In 2005, Dr. Pegden founded Simio LLC, where he introduced an innovative

object-based modeling framework that has transformed the modeling experience for practitioners worldwide. Simio's agent-based capabilities, 3-D visualization, and intelligent object libraries represent the culmination of his decades-long vision for accessible, powerful simulation.

Dissemination of Knowledge

A gifted communicator and educator, Dennis has authored or co-authored several foundational texts, including *Introduction to Simulation and SLAM*, *Introduction to SIMAN*, and *Introduction to Simulation Using SIMAN* (as well as uncredited contributions to other Arena and Simio texts). These works have played central roles in the education of thousands of industrial engineering and operations research students around the world. His influence extends globally through countless workshops, invited talks, and his mentorship of colleagues who have since become leaders in academia and industry.

Software and Hardware Development

Few individuals in the history of simulation have produced a software development record comparable to Dennis's. In particular, he led or co-led the creation of:

- SLAM (1981)
- SIMAN (1982)
- Cinema (1985)
- Arena (1991)
- Simio (2008)

Each of these platforms marked a significant technological step forward. Collectively, they have been used by students and practitioners worldwide. This sequence of innovations represents one of the most sustained and influential software development careers in our field.

Service to the Profession

Dennis has served the simulation community with distinction for more than 40 years. He was Program Chair of the 1984 Winter Simulation Conference (WSC) and has mentored multiple individuals who themselves later became WSC General Chairs. He has consistently supported the growth of I-Sim and the WSC, promoting high professional standards, inclusivity, and the global expansion of the simulation community.

His prestigious awards include the Lanchester Prize Honorable Mention (1979), Dow Outstanding Young Faculty Award (1980), IISE Outstanding Professional Contribution Award (1980), Outstanding Industrial Engineering Award from Purdue University (2002), and the WSC Board of Directors' Award (2003).

Advancing the Status and Visibility of Simulation

Dennis's influence is perhaps best illustrated by the testimonials of colleagues across the profession. Stewart Robinson (Newcastle University Business School) credits him with advancing simulation software to modern levels. Leon McGinnis (Georgia Tech) argues that a majority of practicing industrial engineers likely use tools derived from his work. Shane Henderson (Cornell University) highlights his unique ability to bridge academia and industry. Christos Alexopoulos (Georgia Tech) emphasizes his global educational impact. Jim Wilson states that "no other individual has had such a remarkable and sustained impact on simulation practice." And Jeff Smith

(Auburn University / Simio LLC) succinctly summarizes “I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award than Dennis.”

For over four decades, Dr. C. Dennis Pegden has shaped the trajectory of simulation research, practice, education, and software development. His vision, leadership, and sustained contributions have left an indelible mark on the field. The INFORMS Simulation Society proudly recognizes his extraordinary achievements with the 2025 Lifetime Professional Achievement Award. □

Michael Kuhl Receives the 2025 Distinguished Service Award

Sanjay Jain (Chair), Björn Johansson, and Theresa Roeder

Björn Johansson (left) and Michael Kuhl (right)

The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recognizes individuals who have provided long-standing, exceptional service to the simulation community. This award is for sustained service to the simulation community over at least fifteen to twenty years and acquitted with distinction. The DSA committee for 2025 consisted of Sanjay Jain (Chair), Björn Johansson, and Theresa Roeder. The committee deliberated over the submitted materials and unanimously agreed to select Michael Kuhl, Professor, Industrial and Systems Engineering, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA as the recipient of the 2025 Distinguished Service Award. Professor Kuhl has been involved with the Winter Simulation Conference (WSC) since 1992. He has served the simulation community in many ways including as President of I-SIM for 2008-10, I-SIM representative to WSC Board of Directors 2016-2023, Chair of 2009 I-SIM Research Workshop, INFORMS Annual Meetings Simulation Cluster Chair 2006-08, IISE Modeling and Simulation Division Director 2018-20, WSC 2005 Proceedings Co-editor, WSC 2008 Publications Chair, and WSC 2013 Program Chair. His most significant contribution to the conference is best captured by his nominator as follows:

“In his role as Program Chair for WSC 2013, Michael Kuhl proposed the idea of having a mobile app for future WSCs at the December 2013 WSC Board of Directors meeting. . . . He worked tirelessly with Omnipress, Inc., which was contracted to produce the app. . . . **The mobile application has been one of the most impactful things for the conference in the past 15 years and will have a lasting impact for the next twenty years.** (emphasis added by the nominator)”

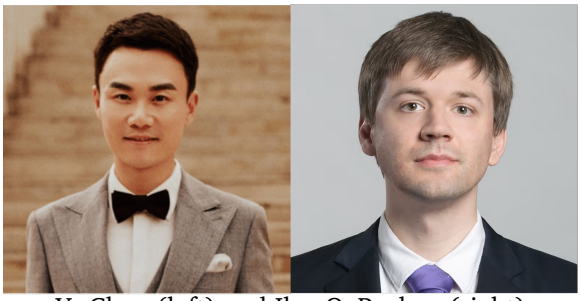
The committee would also like to thank Theresa Roeder for her active participation for 4 years, one year longer than the usual 3-year term for members of the DSA committee.

Nominations for 2026 DSA should be sent to Prof. Björn Johansson via email at

bjorn.johansson@chalmers.se by Oct. 19, 2026. □

Ye Chen and Ilya O. Ryzhov Win the 2025 Outstanding Simulation Publication Award

Michael Fu (Chair), Henry Lam, and Raghu Pasupathy



Ye Chen (left) and Ilya O. Ryzhov (right)

The INFORMS Simulation Society's Outstanding Publication Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the simulation literature in the form of articles, books, book chapters and monographs. The 2025 award recognizes works copyrighted between 2022 and 2024.

The award committee consisting of Michael Fu, Henry Lam, and Raghu Pasupathy, bestowed the 2025 Award to Ye Chen and Ilya O. Ryzhov for their paper:

"Balancing Optimal Large Deviations in Sequential Selection", *Management Science*, 69(6), 3457-3473, June 2023.

From the nomination letter:

"The ranking and selection problem is prominent in the simulation literature, not only because of its practical importance, but because it offers a well-defined mathematical framework in which to study certain fundamental questions. What is the best way to divide a simulation budget between different feasible solutions? When should we focus on a tried-and-true solution, and when should we experiment with one that we don't know well?

One approach that has yielded detailed answers to these questions is based on large deviations theory. The optimal budget allocation can be described using a system of equations that explicitly control the tradeoffs between value and uncertainty, between simulating the best system and simulating others in order to learn that they are not the best. The problem is that these equations depend on the same unknown performance values that we are trying to learn, so in effect we are back where we started.

The paper by Chen and Ryzhov develops not only a ranking and selection algorithm but a general template for creating such algorithms in any simulation optimization problem to which large deviations analysis applies. Their approach is shown to learn the solution to the optimality conditions over time, without any tunable parameters, and in a computationally efficient way that does not require solving systems of equations. Its biggest advantage, however, is its generalizability. While this paper focuses on traditional ranking and selection, the algorithmic concepts are presented in a general manner, and there has since been other work, both by these authors and others, using this principle to create algorithms for other contexts."

Congratulations to the authors for their contributions! □

Ayeong Lee Receives the 2025 WSC Ph.D. Colloquium I-Sim Best MS/OR-Focused Student Paper Award

Eunhye Song, WSC 2025 PhD Colloquium Chair

We received 40 abstract submissions for the PhD colloquium and 29 students were invited to participate. Among them, 7 contributed papers were considered for the best theoretical paper award sponsored by I-SIM. The winner is:

"Importance Sampling for Latent Dirichlet Allocation" by Ayeong Lee (Columbia University). □

Jaime Gonzalez-Hodar, Akshita Gupta, Negar Sadeghi, and Aparna Venkataraman Receive the 2025 WSC Diversity Awards

2025 WSC Diversity Award Committee (Xi Chen (Chair), Xiaowei Zhang, and Wei Xie)

The **Winter Simulation Conference (WSC) Diversity Award** supports graduate students or postdocs from groups historically underrepresented in the simulation community by enabling their participation in the conference.

For **WSC 2025**, the committee reviewed a competitive set of applications and selected the following awardees:

- **Aparna Venkataraman** — The University of Queensland / Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- **Negar Sadeghi** — Northeastern University
- **Jaime Gonzalez-Hodar** — Georgia Institute of Technology
- **Akshita Gupta** — Purdue University

Left to right: Negar Sadeghi, Jamie Gonzalez-Hodar, Aparna Venkataraman, Akshita Gupta, and Wei Xie.

The committee congratulates the awardees and appreciates WSC's continued support of this initiative to promote diversity and broader participation in the simulation community. □

Yuhao Wang Receives the 2025 Robert G. Sargent Simulation Scholarship

Bahar Biller, Barry L Nelson, and James R. Wilson

The Robert G. Sargent Simulation Scholarship provides a $5000 award annually to an I-Sim Ph.D. student working on a doctoral dissertation in simulation to be completed between six and eighteen months from the application due date. See the call for nominations elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year's recipient is Yuhao Wang of the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Tech. Yuhao's research is in data-driven decision

making under parameter uncertainty and he is advised by Prof. Enlu Zhou. Among his accomplishments are published papers in *Operations Research*, *INFORMS Journal on Optimization*, *ACM TOMACS*, *Journal of Systems Science and Engineering* and the *Proceedings of the Winter Simulation Conference*. He received the Best Contributed Theoretical Paper Award from WSC in 2022 for "Fixed Budget Ranking and Selection with Streaming Input Data."

The selection committee consisted of Bahar Biller, Barry L Nelson and James R. Wilson. □

I-SIM BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

INFORMS Simulation Society Business Meeting:

2025 Winter Simulation Conference, Seattle, WA, December 9, 2025

Eunhye Song

6:10 Enlu announces the beginning of the meeting

6:11 Enlu asks to approve the meeting minutes of the INFORMS 2025 I-Sim business meeting

6:11 Enlu introduces the I-Sim committee members

6:12 Sara announces the 2026 I-Sim workshop at North Carolina State University; The workshop will collaborate with ACM TOMACS and Journal of Simulation to publish a special issue.

6:17 Sara announces the INFORMS Healthcare conference 2026 at North Carolina State University

6:19 Eunhye calls for papers for the IJDS special issue on the Data Science for Digital Twins

6:20 Dave presents career highlights of Tom Schriber; Tom will be sorely missed.

6:21 Dave presents career highlights of Markus Rabe; Markus will be sorely missed.

6:23 Susan announces upcoming conferences; 2026 INFORMS Optimization Society Conference, INFORMS Analytics+ Conference, IISE Annual Conference & Expo, SIAM Conference on Optimization, MCQMC 2026, ICML 2026, 2026 INFORMS Annual Meeting, 2026 Winter Simulation Conference

6:26 Eunhye presents the secretary's report

6:27 David presents the treasurer's report

6:29 Enlu reports on MLxOR workshop @NeurIPS 2025 and calls for a retroactive vote to approve spending $3000 for its sponsorship; all approved.

6:33 Enlu reports new donation ($5000) towards the I-Sim Diversity Award; Enlu calls for revisiting the criteria for the diversity award upon the request of the anonymous donors.

6:35 Enlu announces a proposal on the new WSC travel awards; award amount is equal to the WSC registration fee + the membership due; all approved.

6:40 Enlu proposes to raise the membership dues from $10 regular/$0 student/$5 retired to $20 regular/$0 student/$10 retired; all approved.

6:43 Bruno presents the INFORMS Journal on Computing Area Editor report

6:44 Susan presents the Operation Research Area Editor report

6:45 Ilya presents the IISE Transactions department report

6:46 Jeff presents the Naval Research Logistics department report

6:48 Hong presents the ACM TOMACS editor report

6:50 Enlu presents the Journal of Simulation editor report

6:51 Enlu announces the Stochastic Systems editor report

6:52 Eunhye announces the winner of the best theoretical paper award, Ayeong Lee. Congratulations, Ayeong!

6:54 Wei announces the winners of the I-Sim Diversity award: Akshita Gupta, Aparna Venkataraman, Jaime Gonzalez, and Negar Sadeghi. Congratulations, Akshita, Aparna, Jaime, and Negar!

6:56 Barry announces the winner of the Robert G. Sargent Simulation Scholarship, Yuhao Wang. Congratulations, Yuhao!

6:57 Raghu announces the winner of the 2025 Outstanding Simulation Publication Award, Ilya Ryzhov and Ye Chen. Congratulations, Ilya and Ye!

7:02 Bjorn announces the winner of the 2025 Distinguished Service Award, Michael Kuhl. Congratulations, Mike!

7:05 Dave announces the winner of the 2025 Lifetime Professional Achievement Award, Dennis Pegdan. Congratulations, Dennis!

7:35 Enlu adjourns the meeting.

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

Enlu Zhou, enlu.zhou<of>gmail.com, Georgia Tech
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□

MEMBER NEWS


Dr. William L. Maxwell

Dr. William L. Maxwell passed away peacefully on March 31. He was a Cornell University professor and simulation pioneer. For more on his contributions, see the entry in the Computer Simulation Archive: https://d.lib.ncsu.edu/computer-simulation/. □

I-SIM BALLOTS

Candidate Biographies

VP

Henry Lam: Henry Lam is an Associate Professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research at Columbia University. His research interests include simulation modeling, optimization under uncertainty, and their integration with machine learning and statistical tools to enhance data-driven decision-making. His works have been recognized by venues such as the NSF CAREER Award, NSA Young Investigator Award, JP Morgan Chase Faculty Research Award, and Adobe Faculty Research Award. His papers have received awards including INFORMS Outstanding Simulation Publication Award (2022), WSC Best Theoretical Paper (2023 and 2018), INFORMS Junior Faculty Interest Group Best Paper Competition (Second Prize in 2016 and Finalist in 2012), INFORMS George Nicholson Student Best Paper Competition (Honorable Mention in 2010), and awards won by supervised students including INFORMS Doing Good with Good OR Competition (Finalist in 2021), Dupacova-Prekopa Best Student Paper Prize in Stochastic Programming (Honorable Mention in 2025 and Finalist in 2023), INFORMS Undergraduate Operations Research Prize (Finalist in 2021), New England Statistics Symposium Best Student Paper Award (2022), and WSC PhD Colloquium I-SIM Award (2022 and 2021). He serves as the Co-Area Editor for the Stochastic Models area in Mathematics of Operations Research, Area Editor for the Stochastic Models and Data Science area in Operations Research Letters, Associate Editor for Management Science, Operations Research, Manufacturing and Service Operations Management, Applied Probability Journals, Stochastic Models and Queueing Systems, and a past Associate Editor for INFORMS Journal on Computing and Operations Research Letters. He is Chair (2024-2026), Vice-Chair (2022-2024), and Council Member (2017-2019) of the INFORMS Applied Probability Society. He was Secretary (2022-2024) and Council Member (2019-2021) of the INFORMS Simulation Society. He was the Lead Proceedings Editor for WSC 2024 and a Proceedings Editor for WSC 2023. He co-chaired the Applied Probability Cluster in INFORMS Annual Meeting 2018, the Uncertainty Quantification and Robust Simulation Track in WSC 2019, and the Advanced Tutorial Track in WSC 2023. He served on the organizing committee of I-SIM Workshop 2021 and program committees of WSC Analysis Methodology Track (2015, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021), Simulation Optimization Track (2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021) and Model Uncertainty and Robust Simulation Track (2020, 2021). Most recently, he co-organized the first MLxOR Workshop in NeurIPS 2025.

Eunhye Song: Eunhye Song is a Coca-Cola Foundation Early Career Professor and Associate Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. Before joining Georgia Tech in 2022, she was the Harold and Inge Marcus Early Career Assistant Professor in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering at Penn State University. She earned her PhD degree in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences at Northwestern University, and MS

and BS in Industrial and Systems Engineering at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. Her research lies in theory, algorithm, and applications of stochastic simulation. She received an Honorable Mention in the 2020 INFORMS Junior Faculty Interest Group Paper Competition and the National Science Foundation's CAREER Award in 2020. She was recognized by the Peter Welch Early Career Award by the INFORMS Simulation Society in 2024. She served on the I-SIM Diversity Committee (2018-2020) and is serving on the WSC PhD Colloquium Committee (2023-2026). She was elected as a Secretary of the I-SIM in 2024 and is serving her two-year term. In 2021, she co-organized the I-SIM summer research workshop at Penn State. She co-chaired the Uncertainty Quantification and Robust Simulation track for WSC 2019 and the Analysis Methodology track for WSC 2024-2025. She was a WSC proceedings editor in 2022 and served as a registration chair of WSC 2023. She had served as a guest editor of the ACM TOMCAS Special Issue on the 2021 I-SIM research workshop and is a simulation area associate editor of the INFORMS Journal on Computing and INFORMS Journal on Data Science.

Secretary

David Eckman: David Eckman is an Assistant Professor in the Wm Michael Barnes '64 Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Texas A&M University. He received a Ph.D. in Operations Research in 2019 from Cornell University and was a postdoctoral research scholar at Northwestern University from 2019–2021. His research interests deal with optimization and output analysis for stochastic simulation models. He is a co-developer of SimOpt, an open-source testbed of simulation optimization problems and solvers. He has served as Treasurer of the INFORMS Simulation Society (I-SIM), a member of the I-SIM Council, and a co-chair for the Simulation Optimization track at the Winter Simulation Conference. He received the 2023 Outstanding Simulation Publication Award and the 2018 Best Student Paper Award from I-SIM.

Wei Xie: Dr. Wei Xie is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Northeastern University. She earned her Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 2014. Her research focuses on multi-scale foundation models, agentic and generative AI for biological systems-of-systems, computer simulation, and optimal learning. Dr. Xie has authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications. She is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including the 2015 Outstanding Publication Award from the INFORMS Simulation Society, the 2025 NSF CAREER Award, 2025 Rising Star Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), and the 2023 Outstanding Translational Research Faculty Award from Northeastern University.

Treasurer

Ye Chen: Ye Chen is an Assistant Professor of Operations Research at the Schmidthorst College of Business, Bowling Green State University. He received a Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Maryland in 2018. His research interests include stochastic optimization, statistical learning, applied probability and transportation science. He was a winner of the 2022 INFORMS TSL Best Paper Award and a winner of the 2025 I-SIM Outstanding Simulation Publication Award.

Jun Luo: Jun Luo is a tenured professor of Antai College of Economics and Man-

agement at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. He received his PhD degree in Industrial Engineering and Logistics Management at HKUST and a B.S. degree in Statistics at Nanjing University. His research interests include stochastic modeling, simulation optimization, and statistical learning, with their applications in service operations management, supply chain management and financial risk management. His work has been published in journals such as Operations Research, INFORMS Journal on Computing, IISE Transactions, Naval Research Logistics and so on. He currently serves as an Associate Editor for Naval Research Logistics and Journal of Systems Science and Systems Engineering. He is the principal investigator for several research projects, including NSFC for Excellent Young Scientists and Key Program of NSFC, and Alibaba Innovation Research Project.

Council

Siyang Gao: Siyang Gao is a Professor and Associate Head in the Department of Systems Engineering at City University of Hong Kong. He received the B.S. degree in Mathematics from Peking University in 2009 and the Ph.D. degree in Industrial Engineering from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2014. His research is devoted to simulation modeling and optimization, machine learning, LLMs, and their applications in healthcare management. He is a recipient of the Best Conference Paper Award at the IEEE Conference on Automation Science and Engineering in 2019, Best Paper Award at the International Conference on Logistics and Maritime Systems in 2019, and the Best Young Faculty Paper Award at the International Research Conference on Systems Engineering and Management Science in 2018. Dr. Gao currently serves as an Associate Editor for IISE Transactions and Journal of Simulation and was an Associate Editor for IEEE Transactions on Automation Science and Engineering. He served as the chair of I-Sim membership committee since 2022, as a chair of the Simulation Optimization Track of WSC 2022-2026, as an associate program chair of WSC 2022, as a proceeding editor of WSC 2024, and on the PhD Colloquium committee of WSC 2021-2024 (as the chair in WSC 2023).

Guangxin Jiang: Guangxin Jiang is a Professor in the School of Management at Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT). Before joining HIT, he held an academic position at Shanghai University from 2017 to 2019. He received his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Tongji University in 2015. His research interests include stochastic simulation, stochastic optimization, and operations management, with applications to risk management and supply chain management. His work has been published in journals such as Operations Research, INFORMS Journal on Computing, and IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control, as well as in major conferences including WSC and AAMAS. Professor Jiang currently serves as an Associate Editor of Naval Research Logistics, Asia-Pacific Journal of Operational Research, and Journal of the Operations Research Society of China, and is also a member of the Young Editorial Board of Fundamental Research.

Guangwu Liu: Dr. Guangwu Liu is a Professor in the College of Business at City University of Hong Kong. He received his PhD in Industrial Engineering from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2009 and his Bachelor's degree from Tsinghua University in 2005. His research focuses on stochastic simulation and machine learning, with applications in financial engineering and risk management. He has published in journals such as ACM Transactions on Modeling and Computer

Simulation, INFORMS Journal on Computing, Management Science, and Operations Research. He currently serves as an Associate Editor for Naval Research Logistics.

Ilya Ryzhov: Ilya O. Ryzhov is Dean's Professor of Decision Sciences at the Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland. His research interests include stochastic optimization, statistics, and applications in public sector operations research. He currently serves as Department Editor at IISE Transactions, as well as Associate Editor at Operations Research and INFORMS Journal on Computing. He received I-SIM's Outstanding Paper Award twice (in 2017 and 2025), and was recognized by WSC's Best Theoretical Paper award competition on four occasions (winner in 2012; finalist in 2009, 2016, and 2025).

□

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event Calendar

Wei Xie

2026 INFORMS Optimization Society Conference
March 20–22, 2026, Atlanta, Georgia
https://ios2026.isye.gatech.edu/

2026 INFORMS Analytics+ Conference
April 12–14, 2026, National Harbor, Maryland
https://meetings.informs.org/wordpress/analytics/

IISE Annual Conference & Expo 2026
May 16–19, 2026, Arlington, Texas
https://iise.org/Annual/

SIAM Conference on Optimization (OP26)
July 2–5, 2026, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
https://www.siam.org/conferences-events/siam-conferences/op26/

MCQMC 2026: 17th International Conference on Monte Carlo and Quasi-Monte Carlo Methods
June 8–12, 2026, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
https://maths.ed.ac.uk/events/mcqmc-2026

The 43nd International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2026)
July 6–12, 2026, Hamburg, Germany
https://icml.cc/

2026 INFORMS Annual Meeting
November 1–4, 2026, San Francisco, California
https://meetings.informs.org/wordpress/annual/

2026 Winter Simulation Conference
December 6–9, 2026, Glasgow, Scotland
https://meetings.informs.org/wordpress/wsc2026/

The Fortieth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2026)
December 6–12, 2026, Sydney, Australia
https://neurips.cc/

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