



Date: April 3rd, 2026

Section/Society: Practice Section of INFORMS

Award Name: Distinguished Practitioner Award

About the Award

The Distinguished Practitioner Award, presented by the INFORMS Practice Section, is intended to recognize an individual who has demonstrated exceptional and sustained "thought leadership" in the practice of analytics, operations research and management sciences (OR/MS). Unlike project-specific awards (Edelman/Wagner), this honors the person's career-long ability to influence organizational strategy, pioneer new practice methodologies, and advocate for the profession. The award will consist of:

- **Recognition:** A plaque and a formal citation recognizing their contributions and impact on the practice of analytics, awarded during the **INFORMS Analytics+ Conference** (the primary practitioner gathering).
- **The "Legacy" Contribution:** The winner(s) will be encouraged to give a presentation at the following Analytics+ conference to continue the cycle of thought leadership. To extend the impact of the award, recipient(s) will be encouraged to submit a proposal to present at a future INFORMS event or conference, sharing insights and lessons that continue to advance practitioner-focused thought leadership.

Submission and Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility for this award is open only to Practice Section members except for those who were Practice Section officers, INFORMS VP of Practice, chairs of prize committees, or chairs of conferences during the Award nomination Period (from September 1 through December 15). Nominations (including self-nominations) are solicited through announcements in the newsletter, Practice Section Home webpage and/or INFORMS Connect, inviting Practice Section members to submit nomination letters. Nominations should be received by September 30. Award Committee will make their decision by December 15. Each nomination must include:

- **"Impact Statement":** A 1–3-page narrative describing the nominee's thought leadership and the specific "paradigm shifts" they caused.
- **Letters of Endorsement:** At least three letters, with at least one from a C-suite or senior executive who can attest to the nominee's organizational impact.
- **Resume or CV:** The nominee may use a light fill color to highlight resume line-items pertaining to the award criteria and the nominee's eligibility. The influence should extend beyond a single project.

Judging Criteria

Nominees must have demonstrated excellence in the following:

- **Impactful Thought Leadership:** Evidence that the nominee has shifted the "mental model" of their organization, other organizations or industry. This includes pioneering new ways to integrate analytics into decision-making.
- **Organizational Transformation:** Demonstrable evidence that the nominee's leadership led to significant, quantifiable improvements (financial, social, or operational) within their organization or other organizations.
- **Dissemination and Influence:** A record of "internalizing" analytics/OR/MS within one or more organizations, "exporting" those ideas through white papers, keynote speaking, mentoring a new generation of practitioners and/or advocating for the profession.
- **Technical Integrity:** While the award focuses on thought leadership, the underlying work must demonstrate the rigorous and innovative application of Analytics/OR/MS principles.

Committee:

The award committee will be composed of five members including the committee's chair, appointed by the **Practice Section Board**. The committee's chair will be appointed for two years; the rest of the committee will be appointed every year. In the early years of the award, most members will be former Edelman Award Laureates or Wagner Prize finalists. In later years, previous winners of the Distinguished Practitioner Award will be members of the award committee. Eventually, and as soon as practical, all members of the award committee will be previous recipients of the Distinguished Practitioner Award. No one should serve on the committee if this creates a conflict of interest. Members of the committee should adhere to the INFORMS Section 2.5 Conflict of Interest Policy.

Frequency and Financial Implications

In the first two years, the award will be given to up to **three** individuals. After that period, the award will be limited to **at most** two recipients.

Financial requirements for the award are minimal, funded by the Practice Section and limited to the cost of the plaque and its shipping.

Signature of Officer:**Date:****Signature of Officer:****Date:**