
INFORMS HEALTH NEWSLETTER

informatics *Institute for Operations Research
and the Management Sciences*

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Visit us online at health-appl.section.informs.org.

Table of Contents

Officers of the *INFORMS Health Applications Section*

Past Presidents of the *INFORMS Health Applications Section*

News from the Annual Business Meeting: Seattle

The Bonder Scholarship for Research in Health Services

The William Pierskalla Best Paper Award

Message from the Outgoing President

Report from the Editor of *Health Care Management Science*

New Book Alert

The *Health Applications Section* List Serve

Conference Announcements

Job Announcements

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Past Presidents of the INFORMS *Health Applications Section*

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Murray Côté Department of Health Services Research, Management and Policy University of Florida• Allen Holder Department of Mathematics Trinity University• Amy Wilson Division of Health Services Research and Policy University of Minnesota• John Blake Department of Industrial Engineering Dalhousie University Halifax, NS• Liam O'Neill Policy Analysis and Management Cornell University• Larry Shuman School of Engineering University of Pittsburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doug Samuelson InfoLogix, Inc.• Sandra Potthoff Department of Health Care Management University of Minnesota• Yasar A. Ozcan David G. Williamson, Jr., Institute for Health Studies Virginia Commonwealth University• David L. Zalkind Department of Management Science George Washington University• Vicki Smith-Daniels Department of Management Arizona State University• Farrokh Alemi The College of Nursing and Health Sciences George Mason University• Harvey Wolfe Department Of Industrial Engineering University of Pittsburgh
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Notes from the Annual Business Meeting: Seattle, 2007

This year's annual meeting of the Health Applications Section was held at the annual INFORMS meeting in Seattle last fall. Upwards of 100 people attended the meeting this year. Highlights of the meeting included the announcement of the Bonder Scholarship and the Pierskalla Prize winners, and the election of the new section officers for 2008 (see below for details). The meeting came at the time of the conference which was a huge success for our section with 3 full tracks appearing in our sponsored cluster. Thanks go to Jay Rosenberger our new section chair for a great job in organizing the cluster!

Bonder Scholarship

The fourth annual Bonder Scholarship was presented to Burhaneddin Sankikci from University of Pittsburgh. Congratulations Burhan!



Pierskalla Award

The winners of last year's (the fifth) Pierskalla competition were **Stephen Chick**, INSEAD, **Hamed Mamani**, and **David Simchi-Levi**, MIT, for their paper, "Supply Chain Coordination and Influenza Vaccination."

The winners of this year's (the sixth) Pierskalla competition were **Chris Lee** (University of Pennsylvania) and **Stefanos Zenios** (Stanford University) for their paper, "A Shadow Price Framework for Quantifying Health Care Demand, Spending, and Disparity". Pictured below are Chris Lee and Stefanos Zenios accepting the prize from William Pierskalla.



Welcome to the new Officers of the *INFORMS Health Applications*
Section for 2008

Chair:

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Officers of the INFORMS *Health Applications Section* (continued)

2008 Committee Chairs:

Bonder Prize Committee:

Gino Lim
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Pierskalla Prize Committee:

Chris Lee and Stefanos Zenios

Contact:

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Assistant Professor
Operations and Information Management Department
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Nominating Committee:

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Official Election Results from the Annual Business Meeting:

President:

Jay Rosenberger 29
Dionne Aleman 1

Treasurer:

Dionne Aleman 28
Nan Kong 1
Michael Carter 1

Vice Chair/Chair Elect:

Brian Denton 29
Jay Rosenberger 1

Secretary/Newsletter Editor:

Keith Willoughby 29
Overvote 1

Council Member:

Nan Kong 29
Undervote 1

Outgoing President's Message

Hello and Happy New Year!

I sincerely apologize for the lateness of this year's newsletter but I hope it was worth the wait.

This has been a wonderful year for the Health Applications Section. With over 313 members, we are now one of the largest sections in INFORMS and we are continuing to grow. This year we sponsored record number of sessions (45) at the INFORMS Annual meeting in Seattle (special thanks to incoming President Jay Rosenberger and HAS member Edwin Romeijn for their efforts in creating an impressive three HAS tracks).

We are continuing our goals of collaborating with other sections and societies within INFORMS as well as relevant external organizations such as the Society for Medical Decision Making and the IIE Society for Health Systems. A significant number of our members annually participate in the SMDM Annual Conference both as presenters and tutorial instructors. In addition, this year, Jim Benneyan, the President of SHS, has offered to have joint HAS and SHS sponsored sessions at the IIE IERC Conference. We can hopefully explore a similar arrangement at the 2008 INFORMS conference in DC. If you have any input you have on these collaborative endeavors would be greatly appreciated (please e-mail me at jsivy@ncsu.edu at your earliest convenience).

As Murray wrote last year and Al the year before, the visibility of our section is continues to grow in leaps and bounds. We had a record 18 applications for the Pierskalla Award. We offer congratulations to this year's winners, Chris Lee and Stefanos Zenios for their paper "A Shadow Price Framework for Quantifying Health Care Demand, Spending and Disparity". I would also like to offer my sincere gratitude to Hamed Mamani, last year's winner of the Pierskalla Award, who as a graduate student chaired the 2007 award committee. We are very grateful to him for the incredible effort he put into this year's competition. We would like to thank Chris Lee and Stefanos Zenios, this year's winners, for graciously and enthusiastically agreeing to serve as co-chairs for the 2008 Pierskalla paper competition. We realize this is an arduous task and a tremendous service to HAS. We know from previous years that all of the submissions will be excellent and deciding upon this year's winner will be challenging.

This year we received 17 outstanding applications for the Bonder Scholarship. If the quality of these applications is any indication, HAS has a bright future ahead it. I would like to thank Gino Lim for chairing this year's Bonder competition and for graciously agreeing to chair the 2008 competition. Congratulations to the 2007 Bonder Scholarship recipient, Mr. Burhan Sandikci from the University of Pittsburgh. We wish him the great success as he pursues his research on "Quantitative estimates of the price of privacy in liver transplantation".

Last, and not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to this year's executive officers. In particular, to Jay Rosenberger for chairing the Health Applications Section sponsored sessions in Seattle. To Brian Denton for his infinite patience in serving as our secretary/newsletter editor (he was ready to have this newsletter out in November). To Art Chaovalitwongse for being our treasurer (if you want to get involved with the HAS, this is a great position to start with and the math is pretty easy, too). Special thanks to Murray Cote, the 2006 HAS President, for answering my questions and for being so supportive this year. And, to Gino Lim, Hamed Mamani, and Mike Carter for chairing the Bonder Scholarship, Pierskalla Award, and Nominating Committees, respectively. Thank you to those who have served on each of these committees. Please if and when Gino, Chris, Stefanos, and Mike ask you to serve on the 2008 committees, please do so.

In closing, I am grateful for having this opportunity to serve as HAS president. I truly value my membership in HAS and I appreciate those who took the time to involve me in the leadership. Thank you to Amy Wilson for first inviting me to serve on the Pierskalla competition committee. Thank you to Mike Carter and John Blake for encouraging me to run for Treasurer and continuing to encourage me to serve on the HAS board. HAS has made a significant impact on my career and has helped to shape my feelings about INFORMS and the profession. It has been a great experience and I encourage all of our HAS members to volunteer and serve the HAS.

Best wishes,

-Julie

Membership Awards, Promotions, and Publications

The Bonder Scholarship for Research in Health Services

The *Health Applications Section* of INFORMS invites applications from qualified doctoral candidates for the **Bonder Scholarship for Research in Health Services**. Doctoral candidates, particularly those at the beginning of their programs, with an interest in the application of process modeling and operations research analysis to issues in health care design, delivery, or operations are encouraged to apply.

Objectives: The purpose of the Bonder Scholarship is to promote the development and application of operations research techniques to health care design, delivery and operations. The scholarship provides funding of \$5,000US to support the development of highly qualified individuals and promote the interchange of ideas and the dissemination of health services research knowledge in conjunction with INFORMS.

The Award: The Bonder Scholarship consists of a grant of \$4,000 which is intended to provide income support and tuition reimbursement for a promising young researcher. In addition, the award winner will be eligible for up to \$1,000 of travel funding to support participation in Health Application Section activities at the annual INFORMS conference. The tenure of the award is one year.

Selection Criteria: The award will be granted on the basis of excellence, innovation, preparation, and probability of candidate's success. Each candidate should submit three copies of the following materials: a curriculum vita, two letters of support, and a brief, two-page (single-spaced) summary of his or her proposed program of research. Candidates will be evaluated on the quality of their preparation to undertake a program of research in the field of health care. The proposed program of research will be judged according to its potential for practical and theoretical contribution as well as likelihood of successful completion.

Eligibility: All members of INFORMS currently pursuing doctoral studies are eligible. Applications from US and international members are welcome.

Application Process: Candidates are asked to forward their applications by June 16, 2008 to the chairman of the Bonder Scholarship review committee, Gino Lim. Gino's contact information is provided on page 2.

Application Process (continued):

Notification: All applicants will be notified by September 1, 2008 of the results of the competition.

Background: Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Seth Bonder has been a leader in applying operations research to planning national defense, and a pioneer in applying operations research methods to re-engineering health care delivery.

In his work with the military, Dr. Bonder used operations research to model telemedicine distant from care providers and medical expertise. He extended these contributions to support reengineering healthcare in the civilian sector. He has led the firm that he founded, Vector Research Inc., into the field of medical operations research, and created many of the applied aspects of that discipline.

Dr. Bonder has made major contributions to the operations research profession. He has served as president of the Operations Research Society of America and the Military Operations Research Society, and vice president of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Patriotic Service Award from the Secretary of the Army, and the George E. Kimball Medal. His colleagues recognized him by electing him to the National Academy of Engineering.

The William Pierskalla Best Paper Award

The *Health Applications Section* of INFORMS sponsors an annual competition for the **Pierskalla Award**, which recognizes research excellence in the field of health care management science. The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium for the best paper presented in a *Health Applications Section* sponsored session at each fall INFORMS conference. The award is named after Dr. William Pierskalla to recognize his contribution and dedication to improving health services research and delivery through operations research. Dr. Pierskalla is currently a professor at the Anderson School at UCLA and serves as an editor on numerous operations research journals.

Eligibility: Any paper presented in a session sponsored by the *Health Applications Section* during the INFORMS fall annual meeting is eligible for the award. However, to be considered for the award, a full paper must be submitted by July 1, 2008 to the Vice President of the *Health Applications Section*. The paper must be presented at the conference to receive the award, although the judging is based on the written paper. The paper can be a working paper, a submitted paper, or a published paper. If desired by the authors, the winning paper will be published in *Health Care Management Science* if it has not been published or is not under review elsewhere.

Judging: Papers are judged by a panel of four representatives from the *Health Applications Section*. Each paper is judged on its 1) contribution to operations research/management science in health care, 2) readability, clarity and organization of the paper, 3) technical content and scope relative to the length of the paper, and 4) originality.

The panel judging the papers reserves the right not to award a prize in any given year.

Application Process: Contact the current President of the *Health Applications Section* to submit your abstract and to present the results in a *Health Applications Section* sponsored session. Four copies of the written paper must be submitted to the President by July 1, 2008 to be considered for the award. If there are multiple authors, they must state in writing how they wish the honorarium to be distributed at the time the written paper is submitted.

Report from the Editor of *Health Care Management Science*

HCMS: The Year in Review

The year 2007 marked another successful period in the 10 year history of *Health Care Management Science*. The successful publication of Volume 10 marks another remarkable accomplishment for HCMS sponsored by intellectual capital of **INFORMS Health Applications Section** members.

Editorial process of *Health Care Management Science* switch to an on-line system called Editorial Manager (AM) effective February 2007. EM provides an efficient process for submissions, review and publication of the manuscripts. We switched all existing reviewers to EM and alerted them; however, if we missed anyone during the transition, please let me know. I also encourage everyone to visit EM periodically and update the specialty areas, so to prevent requests for review not in your specialization area(s). The web site of HCMS for EM is www.editorialmanager.com/hcms/. Please also visit Journal web site at www.springerlink.com/content/1386-9620 to observe the contents of the each volume, abstracts and free sample issues.

While we at HCMS are proud of these accomplishments, our eye is still on the future. One of our major goals for this year (yes again) is to be listed in the ISI database. ISI has been considering HCMS for some time, and Springer is after this goal. To speed up the process, please e-mail them (journals@isinet.com) and recommend that *Health Care Management Science* be included in their database. HCMS is a top-quality journal and deserves this recognition, especially for our non-US readership. Also, be sure to make note of HCMS is indexed and abstracted in ABI inform; EconLit; Journal of Economic Literature; SCOPUS; Statistical theory and Method Abstracts and Medline.

In addition, we are always looking for a new special issue editor. Anyone wishing to become special issue editor please contact Yasar A. Ozcan (ozcan@vcu.edu) to discuss the details. This really counts on promotions!

Call for Referees

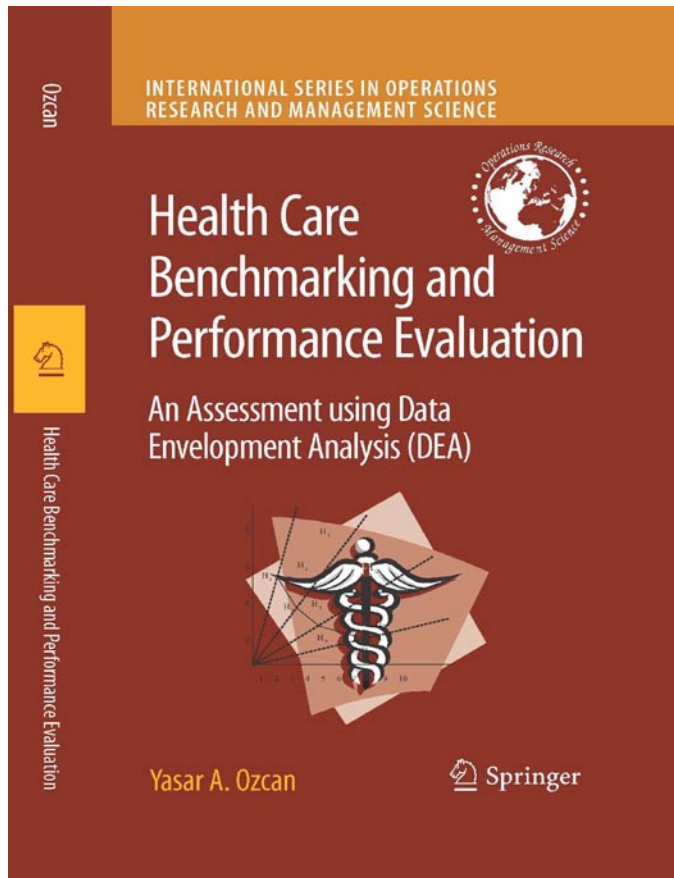
To ensure the continued success of *Health Care Management Science*, manuscript referees are needed. Nominate, or volunteer yourself or a colleague, for this important activity. Included is a form used to submit a candidate for consideration. A broad spectrum of expertise and viewpoints is needed and useful to maintain and develop this vibrant journal. Critical review of submitted articles ensures quality of publication. A greater number of referees can also improve publication turn around times. Be a sport, do something fun and intellectually stimulating. Get the jump on the latest research and results! Please email your interest to ozcan@vcu.edu to become a reviewer for HCMS.

New Book Alert!

Health Care Benchmarking and Performance Evaluation An Assessment Using Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA)

by **Yasar A. Ozcan** is published by Springer.

ISBN 978-0-387-75447-5



This book places emphasis on the application of contemporary performance and efficiency evaluation methods, using Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), to create optimization-based benchmarks including, but not limited to hospitals, physician group practices, health maintenance organizations, nursing homes, and other health care delivery organizations. Hence, this book will not only be useful for graduate students to learn DEA applications in health care, but will also be an excellent reference and “how to book” for practicing administrators.

Conference Announcements

July 28th – August 1, ORAHS Conference, Toronto Canada

The 2008 annual ORAHS Conference will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. ORAHS will formally run July 28 to August 1, 2008. This will be the first time that the annual meeting will be held in a North American venue. Appropriately, the theme is International Perspectives on Operations Research and Health Care. The conference will be held at the University of Toronto, one of the largest universities in North America. The University is conveniently located close to five large teaching hospitals, each of which conduct and encourage operations research within their facilities to continuously improve their patient care.

Prior to the conference, ORAHS PhD workshops will be taking place at the University of Toronto on July 24th and 25th, 2008. The goal of this event is to provide an intimate forum for current and recently graduated PhD students to showcase and discuss their research. The workshop is composed of tutorials and seminars focusing on operational research and healthcare topics run by prominent researchers in these fields.

We welcome all papers within the broad theme of operational research approaches applied to any aspect of health care design, delivery, or evaluation. In keeping with the theme of the meeting, papers that provide international comparisons of health care systems, new insight into common issues, or those that discuss international health care planning and development are particularly encouraged. Please visit www.orahs2008.com for more information.

The organizational committee encourages everyone traveling to ORAHS 2008 to include Toronto in their summer holiday plans. There is a lot to see and do in one of the world's most diverse cities! Appreciate the world-in-a-day, by walking through dozens of unique and multi-cultural neighbourhoods. Relax on the waterfront or sail around the islands; enjoy the wilderness of Algonquin Park or the beautiful scenery that inspired the artists collectively known as the Group of Seven in Killarney; ponder the relationship between man and nature at Niagara Falls; visit Canada's capital – Ottawa; walk through the markets of St. Lawrence and Kensington; explore shipwrecks by scuba-diving or glass-bottom boat tours in Tobermory or the hiking on the Bruce Trail; try out the world-renown sea kayaking in Georgian Bay or limestone rock climbing on the cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment; discover the farmers' markets in St Jacob's or the wine tours in Niagara; bicycle tour around Prince Edward County. There is plenty to do for the whole family. No wonder Ontario's motto is: "Yours to Discover!"

2008 Spring Simulation Multiconference (SpringSim'08)

SEVENTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH SCIENCES SIMULATION
Crowne Plaza Ottawa Hotel
Ottawa, Canada
April 13-16, 2008

This international conference, sponsored by the Society for Computer Simulation International (SCS), is a forum for modeling and simulation in the health sciences. Application areas include health services studies, pharmacometrics, drug and device development, medical practice, modeling epidemics, physiology, and methodology. Practitioners of modeling are encouraged to submit proposals based on their applications and demonstrations of computer simulation techniques. A sampling of applications presented in the past is indicated in the general sessions list shown below. Programs from the 2001 and 2002 conferences are available at: www.sla.purdue.edu/academic/soc/andersonj/anderson.html

13th International Conference on Productivity and Quality Research ICPQR 2008

25th - 27th June 2008, Oulu, Finland. We would like to invite you to the 13th International Conference on Productivity and Quality Research (ICPQR 2008), to be held 25th- 27th June, 2008 in Oulu, Finland. In cooperation with HEMA (Healthcare Engineering, Management and Architecture) research group at Helsinki University of Technology, we are organizing a special track on *Productivity and Quality of Healthcare Services*, which will focus how healthcare service provision can be improved by using industrial management approaches. The topics for the special track include, but are not limited to:

Use of industrial management approaches to increase productivity and quality in healthcare; Operation room management; Operating theatre scheduling; Simulation and optimization; Behavioral modeling and incentives; IT tools for increasing productivity; e-health applications; Measuring effectiveness of healthcare services; Patient process management; Application of quality management approaches and tools; Organizational arrangement to increase productivity and quality in healthcare; Governance in healthcare service production.

Call for papers Special track: Productivity and Quality of Healthcare Services

Chair: Dr. Vesa Kämäräinen, Research

Director, HEMA Research Group at BIT Research Centre, Helsinki University of Technology
Special Track, Productivity and Quality of Healthcare, Services

Chairman of the session:

Dr. Vesa Kämäräinen, Research Director, HEMA Research Group at BIT Research Centre, Helsinki University of Technology
Keynote speech: Dr. Franklin Dexter, University of Iowa
Managing operating room productivity. Lessons from operating room management about when and how reducing setup and cleanup times can increase productivity.

The extended abstracts of 1500-2000 words in English should be submitted no later than 29th February, 2008. Abstracts may be submitted by email: 0Hicpqr2008@oulu.fi or by using the online procedure on the website: <http://icpqr2008.org>. Abstracts will be blind reviewed by the scientific committee. Accepted articles will be published in the conference proceedings. Authors of selected best papers will be given the opportunity to revise their papers for inclusion in a

future issue e.g. of the following journals according to the guidelines for publication and editorial decision as specified in the journals:

Productivity and Quality in Knowledge-Intensive Organizations

Important deadlines:

Feb 29th 2008 Submission of abstracts

March 30th 2008 Notification of acceptance May 15th 2008 Submission of papers We look forward to your reply, Sincerely, Prof. David J Sumanth Prof. Jaakko Kujala University of Miami University of Oulu President of ISPQR 5H Contact address: Päivi Iskanius, University of Oulu, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, P.O Box 4610,90014 Oulu, Finland, Email: H4Hicpqr2008@oulu.fi

Operations Management in Healthcare

European Operations Management Association, EurOMA-2008
15th Annual Conference, Groningen, The Netherlands, June 15-18, 2008

The Healthcare Operations Track is soliciting papers for presentation at **EurOMA-2008** that contribute to the advancement of healthcare system design, operations, and improvement. Research on Operations in Healthcare can draw from diverse disciplines, such as operations and supply chain management, industrial engineering, information systems, strategy, performance management, quality, and technology management. Diverse research methods are also welcome, including empirical, analytical, numerical, and conceptual approaches. Sample topics include, but are not limited to:

- Measurement of organizational effectiveness and performance in healthcare.
- The role of technology in healthcare delivery.
- The transfer of principles and methods from manufacturing to healthcare.
- Managing organizational and technological change in hospital settings.
- Supply chain management in the healthcare sector.
- Lean and six sigma implementations to streamline healthcare processes.
- Information technology in healthcare (e.g., electronic medical records implementations).
- Operations management's impact on cost and cost structures in healthcare.
- Safety management, quality management, and error reduction in hospitals.
- The role of organizational structure (e.g., service lines) in healthcare effectiveness.
- Justification of new technology in healthcare environments.
- Resource planning and patient scheduling in hospitals.
- Managing patient flows in hospitals.
- Operations management's contribution to patient satisfaction.

Contributors are invited to email extended abstracts (500-800 words) to the conference site, www.EurOMA2008.org, by **January 14th, 2008**. Each abstract should contain the name of the author(s), affiliation, postal address, and e-mail, all placed on a separate page along with the title of the paper and the track name (Healthcare Operations). Please indicate the corresponding author. Abstracts will be blindly reviewed and evaluated based on the following criteria: Relevance, Clarity, Significance, Originality, Quality, and Impact.

Decisions regarding acceptance will be made by February 18th, 2008. Papers are accepted on the assumption that the manuscript is an original work and has not been copyrighted, published or accepted for presentation at other conferences. At least one author must register, attend the conference, and present the paper. Full papers must be received by April 14th, 2008. Accepted papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings.

Track organizers:

Urban Wemmerlöv, Erdman Center for Operations and Technology Management, School of Business, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA (uwemmerlov@bus.wisc.edu) and Nancy Hyer, Owen School of Management, Vanderbilt University, USA (nancy.lea.hyer@owen.vanderbilt.edu).

INFORMS Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., OCTOBER 12 – 15

The health application section is sponsoring a cluster of sessions at the INFORMS conference next fall in DC. The goal of the cluster is to present research and practical applications of Operations Research to Health Care in the broadest sense. If you are interested in organizing a 90 minute session for the cluster please email a title a short description of the theme of the session to Brian Denton (NC State University): bdenton@ncsu.edu.

Recent Job Announcements

RESEARCH ANALYST POSITION

The Department of Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College, located in New York City, is seeking an analyst to participate in cost-effectiveness and policy modeling research with a focus on hepatitis C, HIV, and substance abuse treatment. Additional activities may occur in other research areas including cancer treatment, mental health, orthopedic medical devices, and global health.

Requirements include Bachelor's degree; demonstrated excellence in quantitative skills; advanced knowledge of operations research concepts, research experience, and ability to implement models using commercially available decision-analytic simulation software packages; proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access); excellent interpersonal, organizational, and communication skills; and ability to work independently; 2 years prior related experience or related Master's degree preferred.

Contact: Bruce R. Schackman, PhD, Chief, Division of Health Policy, Department of Public Health, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, 411 East 69th Street, New York, NY 10021, e-mail: brs2006@med.cornell.edu

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION

Postdoctoral research position to work on designing interventions and design and conduct clinical trials of interventions to promote shared decision making. Examples of current areas of focus include decision aids, redesign of clinical offices, health policy interventions; sharing quantitative information with patients about novel diagnostics and therapeutics; clinical decisions and treatment adherence in patients with chronic conditions; interventions in usual primary care settings. Research background in applied psychology, health policy, or health services is highly desired; knowledge of health services/clinical research methodology, adequate communication (written and oral) and teamwork skills are required; history of successfully funded grants would be a plus.

The Knowledge and Encounter Research Unit houses a dynamic and innovative research program focused on evidence-based medicine, knowledge synthesis, patient-centered care and shared decision making. Visit our website for more information:

http://mayoresearch.mayo.edu/mayo/research/ker_unit/

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine is a not-for-profit organization that integrates research with clinical practices and education in multi-campus environment. Mayo offers an attractive benefit package.

Salary will be determined by the successful candidate's experience. For further information, please visit <http://www.mayo.edu/>

Applications, including curriculum vitae and bibliography, summary of past accomplishments, and the names and e-mail addresses of three references, should be sent to:

Victor M. Montori, MD, MSc
c/o Carolyn Valone Bell
Wiser Choices Program, Knowledge and Encounter Research Unit
Mayo Clinic in Minnesota
200 First Street SW
Rochester, MN U.S.A. 55905

Mayo Clinic College of Medicine is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer and educator.