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# INFORMS HEALTH NEWSLETTER

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*Institute for Operations Research  
and the Management Sciences*

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## *Annual HAS Business Meeting*

### Scenes from the Philadelphia Meeting



Professor Ramesh K. Shukla of Virginia Commonwealth University presenting APR-DRG Risk adjustment methodologies.

Health Applications Section Business Meeting, members enjoying the wine and cheese reception



From left to right: Michael Rosko, Yasar Ozcan, Ann van Ackere, and Sandra Potthoff

Health Applications Section Business Meeting, members enjoying more wine and cheese!



From left to right: Eric Volman, Liam O'Neil, Mystery Member No.1, and Edward Kaplan

Was there enough wine and cheese for these members?



From left to right: William Pierskalla, Murray Cote, Douglas Samuelson, John Blake, Mystery Member No. 2, and Michael Carter.

A serious group of HAS Business Meeting Members



First Row: Peri Iz, Augustine Esouboue, Yasar Ozcan, Sandra Potthoff, Mystery Prize Pickle Jar Winner and Mystery Amy Wilson, Mystery Member No. 2.

Second Row: Mystery Member No. 3, Ann van Ackre, Liam O’Neill, Mystery Member No. 1, Edward Kaplan, John Blake, Douglas Samuelson, Murray Cote, Michael Carter, and William Pierskalla.

Taking Charge of HAS’s Future!!!



Left to right: Liam O’Neill (President Elect), Douglas Samuelson (President), and Sandra Potthoff (Immediate Past President)

The Man Who Is and Provides Inspiration To All!!  
The Namesake of the William Pierskalla Best Paper Award!!



William Pierskalla

We have three new Mystery Members and one identified new member, Amy Wilson in the photographs. We would like to welcome them to the group. A feature in the next edition of *Informs Health Newsletter* will include full biographical profiles of them. So... for that to happen, yes you new members, send me some information about yourself. That’s right, the details like; born, raised, educated, work history, current projects, and papers you need reviewed. For that matter, the editor invites any and all to e-mail stories about themselves to be published in upcoming issues of this newsletter. What better way to build a strong and networked membership than to tell each other about ourselves! Please send material to: [cshasky@hsc.vcu.edu](mailto:cshasky@hsc.vcu.edu)

***Sandra Potthoff's Outgoing  
President's Message***

To all of you who made it to Philly, it was wonderful to see all of you. The following is a summary of the meeting.

**William Pierskalla \$500  
Best Paper Prize**

The mailed ballot vote to award \$500 for the William Pierskalla Best Paper presented at the INFORMS fall conference in the session sponsored by the Health Applications Section (HAS) was approved. The Health Applications Section of INFORMS will present the award annually at the fall meeting. 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 professor at the Anderson School, U.C.L.A., and serves in an editorial capacity on numerous operations research journals.

Eligibility for the award is as follows. 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 31 in the summer prior to the fall conference. Submission is made to the Vice-President of the Health Applications Section. The paper must be presented at the conference to receive the award. Judging will be based on the content of the written paper. The paper can be a working paper, submitted paper, or published. If desired by the authors, the winning paper will be published in the journal *Health Care Management Science*, if it has not been previously published or under active review for publication elsewhere.

Judging is done by a panel of four representatives of the Health Applications

Section. The criteria for winning include contribution to operations research/management science in health care, readability, clarity, and organization of the paper. Additional judging criteria include technical content and scope relative to length, as well as originality. Also, the panel of judges reserve the right not to award a prize in any given year. The results of the award will be announced and the award given at the fall meeting. The volunteers for this coming year's committee are: Liam O'Neill, Ed Kaplan, Ann van Ackere, and Doug Samuelson.

The mechanics of the application process are as follows: Inform the current Vice-President of the Health Applications Section of your intention to submit a paper for judging. In doing so, you will submit four copies of the written paper to that officer by July 31, 2000 to be considered for the San Antonio 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.

For additional information contact Liam O'Neill, Vice President of the Health Applications Section, Assistant Professor of Health Systems Policy Analysis and Management, N132 MVR Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4401. His telephone number is: 607-255-1948. His e-mail address is: lo122@cornell.edu.

**San Antonio Fall 2000 Conference**

It takes cooperation and effort to produce successful conferences. Our new Vice President, Liam O'Neill, has assumed responsibility for organizing the HAS sessions for San Antonio. The conference dates are November 5-8, 2000. Details can be found at <http://ie.tamu.edu/informs2000/>. He has and will be e-mailing all, asking for your help. Please support him in this effort. He will be a valuable source of information for session organization.

### **Officer Election Results**

Vice President: Liam O'Neill  
Treasurer: John Blake  
Board Member: Sharon Schweikhart

Congratulations to these fine people as they take their positions of leadership within our organization.

### **Current Membership and Financials**

Total current members: 240  
Financials as of 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.: \$6,239.23

### **Health Care Management Science Journal**

Yasar Ozcan, editor of *Health Care Management Science*, reported that the journal is VERY successful as it heads into its third year. The acceptance rate for papers is about twenty percent. You are encouraged to submit your scholarly work to the journal. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer for this journal, please contact Yasar at ozcan@hsc.vcu.edu.

### **WEB Based Teaching Resources**

Anyone with materials, cases, data sets, that they have developed for teaching Operations Research (O.R.) in health care and are willing to share them with other faculty, please e-mail Sandra Potthoff at potth001@tc.umn.edu. The possibility exists to use the HAS web site as a place to link and collect O.R. in health care teaching materials.

### **Mystery Door Prize Winners**

Winners of the two mystery door prizes were Bill Pierskalla and Amy Wilson. This activity is fast becoming a favorite of the attendees.

**The Mystery Door Prize** is a random drawing held to surprise two meeting attendees with a secret mystery door prize. Who knows, there might be another one at the next meeting! Attend the meetings to find out!

### **Informs Conference**

The spring INFORMS conference is upon us. This year it is to be held on May 7-10, 2000 in Salt Lake City, Utah. For those interested in attending and presenting a paper at next years event, you have until December 2000 to get it together. In the next eight months, people should submit the following information to our HAS Vice-President officer for inclusion in next years INFORMS session.

Title of Paper:  
Abstract: 50 words or less, no subscripts, no superscripts, and no Greek letters.  
Authors of Paper: (the presenter should be listed first)  
Name of First Author:  
Affiliation:  
Mailing Address:  
Work Telephone:  
Facsimile:  
E-mail Address:  
INFORMS Member? (yes/no)  
Name of Second Author:  
Affiliation:  
Mailing Address:  
Work Telephone:  
Facsimile:  
INFORMS Member? (yes/no)

We would like to remind our members that students and newly minted Ph.D.'s beginning their academic careers will greatly benefit from HAS. Active participation in HAS enables young researchers to demonstrate commitment to the field of health care operations research

through service to our section, and develop a network of senior colleagues who become familiar with their research. The tenure clock ticks fast, and before you know it, it's time to find external reviewers to critique your research contributions to the field, as well as assess your service and teaching. *Please encourage your students and new faculty to present at HAS sponsored sessions and become active members of HAS.* One can become a member of HAS without being a member of INFORMS, although we also encourage INFORMS membership.

I have enjoyed serving the section these past two years as Vice-President and President. The reins are being turned over to a very capable Doug Samuelson.

*Regards, Sandra J. Potthoff*

### **Vice-President's Message**

I am writing to request your assistance by organizing a Health Applications Section (HAS) sponsored session for the INFORMS Fall, 2000 Meeting, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas on November 5-8, 2000. Our goal is to have at least 6 to 8 sponsored sessions.

Even if you will not have time to organize a session, let me know if you are interested in presenting a paper or giving a tutorial. As an added incentive, we will be presenting the first annual Pierskalla Award for the best paper presented in a HAS-sponsored session. In addition to the respect and admiration of your peers, this award includes a \$500 honorarium.

As the new HAS Vice-President, I am excited about the prospect of hosting you in Texas. I expect the San Antonio conference to be one of the best ever. Let me know if you have any questions or need more information. Please mark those dates on your calendar. I hope to see you in San Antonio!

*Regards, Liam O'Neill*

### **Other News**

The book titled, "The Directory of Medical Internet Site Addresses," 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, was recently reviewed by Sandra Potthoff. Her comments follow. "If you are looking for a reference tool to assist in identifying useful medical and health-related WEB sites, you may want to consider "The Directory of Medical Internet Site Addresses". This reference provides 12 different directories of over 1500 selected major medical and healthcare sites on the internet, grouped or indexed in a variety of ways to assist different types of users, including physicians, physician assistants, residents, medical students, nurses, healthcare administrators, pharmacists, and patients. The directories list sites selected to meet criteria that help identify the organizations and individuals responsible for the information presented, and are arranged in different formats and indexing structures to assist people in searching the internet and world wide web for healthcare information. The purpose of the reference book is to provide users with currently accessible sites in several different structured formats to expedite the search process for reliable information from authoritative and responsible organizations." For more information, contact M.C. Heuston of Heuston Consulting, Inc. at McHeu@aol.com with telephone 480-563-1022 and fax 480-502-2029 available as well.

#### **Visit Our WEB Site at:**

<http://www.crt.umontreal.ca/~sophiel/health/>

At the WEB site you might find pages of the article, "New Frontier? Health services research and medical informatics: opportunities await those with the right skills" by Douglas A. Samuelson, published in

ORMS Today, Feb. 2000. Check it out! Tell Doug what you think of it!

Our 'family' organization's WEB site is;

<http://www.informs.org/> You should have both of these URL's bookmarked by now!

**William Pierskalla Award for Best  
Paper presented at  
HEALTH APPLICATIONS  
SECTION sponsored session  
INFORMS Fall Conference, San  
Antonio.**

Here are the Rules:

1. Eligibility for prize is limited to papers presented at the Fall INFORMS meeting in a session sponsored by the Health Applications Section, beginning in the fall of 2000, pending approval by the membership of the Health Applications Section.
2. Entrant must have made copies of the paper available to the audience at the time the presentation is made. Paper can be a working paper, submitted paper, or published. Submit 3 copies of the paper at the time the presentation is made to the President of the Health Applications Section or his/her designee. 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.
3. The prize will be awarded based on the written paper, not its presentation. In the event of several authors on the paper, or if an author other than the first author presents the paper, the authors must state in writing at the time the paper is submitted to whom the prize money should be distributed. All authors will be credited with having received the prize.
4. Authors will be notified by February 1 following the fall conference if their paper

has won, with the prize money being sent at that time. Official announcement of the award will be made at the Health Application Section's annual meeting of the fall conference the following year.

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

Judging:

The president of the Health Applications Section will serve as the coordinator of the best paper prize. S/he will solicit 3 volunteers who are members of the Health Applications Section to review the papers. Volunteer reviewers cannot serve if their participation represents a conflict of interest.

Papers will be judged on contribution to management science in health care, readability, clarity, organization of the paper, technical content, scope relative to the length of the paper, and originality.

**!!!!!!REMINDER!!!!!!**

Health Care Management Science (HCMS) has been given the good news that it has been accepted for inclusion in 'Index Medicus' and 'MEDLINE'. This referencing begins with the first issue of HCMS.

Health Care Management Science has multiple volumes. The first volume was published in 1998 with two issues. Please visit the web site to check the contents and abstracts of each volume (issue) at: <http://www.baltzer.nl/hcms/contents.html>.

The journal, Health Care Management Science, can be previewed via free electronic specimen copy and the WEB site; <http://www.baltzer.nl/hcms/hcms.asp> and the journal's home page is located at; <http://www.vcu.edu/haeweb/hcms/hcms.html>.

Please review the sample contents. We think you will want to order a subscription as well as publish your work in this high quality journal.

### **Referees Needed!**

Your professional journal, *Health Care Management Science*, is always on the prowl, soliciting referees. Nominate or volunteer yourself or a colleague for this important activity. The following page contains the 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 insures 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! Fill out the form, send it to the editors at;

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You'll be glad you did!

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# Health Care Management Science

## Referee Profile

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (where to mail correspondence):

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Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list your specialty areas of expertise and/or interests in OR/MS and health care applications:

Specialty #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Specialty #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Specialty #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Specialty #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Specialty #5: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Suggestions for *HCMS*:

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## ***INFORMS-KORMS Seoul 2000 International Meeting***

The INFORMS-KORMS Seoul 2000 International Meeting will be held on June 18-21, 2000. If you are planning to attend this conference send an e-mail to a colleague. You might see world traveler and distinguished presenter, Yasar Ozcan ([ozcan@hsc.vcu.edu](mailto:ozcan@hsc.vcu.edu)) attending with his camera! Abstracts are in and presenters are waiting for attendees. If you attend and would like to spread the word about what you heard, send a note to the HAS newsletter editor. Print and pictures are welcome. Let's see if we can give Yasar Ozcan some competition on the photography front.

**informs**

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