
INFORMS HEALTH NEWSLETTER

informatics *Institute for Operations Research
and the Management Sciences*

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Officers of the INFORMS *Health Applications Section*

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Past Presidents of the INFORMS *Health Applications Section*

<p>H. David Sherman Accounting Group Northeastern University 404 Hayden Hall Boston, MA 02115 E-mail: h.sherman@nUNET.neu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/2002</p> <p>Liam O'Neill Policy Analysis and Management Cornell University N132 MVR Hall Ithaca, NY 14853 E-mail: lo22@cornell.edu Term Expired: 12/31/2001</p> <p>Doug Samuelson InfoLogix, Inc. 8711 Chippendale Ct Annandale, VA 22003 E-mail: dsamuel@seas.gwu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/2000</p> <p>Sandra Potthoff Department of Health Care Management University of Minnesota 321 19th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55455 E-mail: Sandra.J.Potthoff-1@tc.umn.edu Term Expired: 12/31/1999</p> <p>Yasar A. Ozcan David G. Williamson, Jr., Institute for Health Studies Virginia Commonwealth University P.O. Box 980203 Richmond, VA 23298 E-mail: ozcan@hsc.vcu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/1998</p>	<p>David L. Zalkind Department of Management Science George Washington University 710 21st Street NW, Suite 206 Washington, DC 20052 E-mail: dlz@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/1997</p> <p>Vicki Smith-Daniels Department of Management Arizona State University P.O. Box 874006 Tempe, AZ 85287 E-mail: vicki.smith-daniels@asu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/1996</p> <p>Farrokh Alemi The College of Nursing and Health Sciences George Mason University 4400 University Drive Fairfax, VA 22030-4444 E-mail: falemi@mason.gmu.edu Term Expired: 12/31/1995</p>
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Notes from the Annual Business Meeting: San Jose

Intrepid HAS members braved the very moderate northern California weather to attend the November 18, 2002 *Health Applications Section's* Annual Business Meeting in San Jose. Along with fabulous wine and cheese and the ever-popular Minnesota-based door prizes, we enjoyed the inaugural presentation of the Bonder Scholarship and the presentation of the 3rd Pierskalla Award.

Bonder Scholarship:

For the inaugural award, 15 applications were received. Incoming HAS president, John Blake called them all “amazingly good.” The award’s namesake, Dr. Seth Bonder, talked about his interest in promoting education for operational sciences, particularly in areas of military and health applications. Dr. Bonder presented the award to Mr. Xuanming Su of Stanford University for “Allocation of Kidneys To Autonomous Transplant Candidates: A Sequential Stochastic Assignment Model.”

Pierskalla Award:

John Blake presented the 2002 Pierskalla Award. John thanked the people who had submitted papers and the members of the committee that had judged them. Honorable mention was made to Murray Côté, Sid Syam, Bruce Vogel, and Diane Cowper for their paper “Optimal Locations for Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Units.” First prize was awarded to Gregory S. Zaric and Margaret L. Brandeau for their paper, *Optimal Investment in a Portfolio of HIV Prevention Programs*. Greg was on hand to receive the award from Bill Pierskalla.

Treasurer’s Report:

The HAS is in good financial standing, with a \$6,307.67 balance at the end of year 2002. However, the section’s expenditures outpaced it’s revenue by \$711.11. The section received \$1,685.00 from individual dues and \$57.39 in interest, for a total of \$1,742.39. The HAS spent \$784.40 on last year’s newsletter, \$408.20 on the San Jose reception, and \$1,260.90 on awards. The HAS is considering ways to reduce expenditures so that the future vitality of the section is preserved.

Secretary’s Report:

Amy Wilson reported on the status of the HAS membership.

Amendments to the Section Bylaws:

Members of HAS were informed about changes to the section’s bylaws required in order to conform with INFORMS bylaws. John Blake presented proposed changes to the group and after some discussion, the revisions were accepted virtually unanimously.

Election Results:

The results of the election for section officers were announced. Congratulations to:

- John Blake, incoming president;
- Amy Wilson, incoming vice president and president elect for 2004;
- Allen Holder, treasurer;
- Murray Côté, secretary / newsletter editor; and
- Liam O'Neil and Xuanming Su, board members.

Administration and Other Business:

The subject was raised of whether HAS should become a small society. The consensus was to delegate the section officers to investigate the ramifications of such a decision and report back to the section.

David Sherman volunteered to be our nominee for the INFORMS Subdivision Council.

Sandra Potthoff and Mike Carter volunteered to serve as the nominating committee for the 2004 officers.

Augustine Esogbue volunteered to chair the Bonder Scholarship.

Doug Samuelson volunteered to chair the Pierskalla Award.

Incoming President's Message

As summer finally comes to the northeastern portion of North America, bringing relief from what has been a pretty tough winter and spring (even by Canadian standards – see comparative photographs below) it is time once again to observe an annual rite of spring – the creation of the *Health Applications Section* newsletter.



Figure 1: Angela Blake outside the snowdrift in front of our house in Halifax versus the view from Murray Côté's office at the University of Florida. (Both photos were taken sometime during February 2003.)

I want start off by thanking the members of the *Health Application Section* of INFORMS for providing me the opportunity to serve as the Section's Chair for 2002-2003. The past year has brought a number of interesting developments for the HAS. This coming year promises to be equally as exciting. I would like to thank the membership and the executive of the HAS for this opportunity.

2002 saw the HAS continue its tradition of organizing a successful, informative, and well attended track of papers at the fall INFORMS conference. With more than 12 HAS sponsored sessions, San Jose was one of our largest efforts to date. The breadth of topics covered in the tracks was mind-boggling; talks ranged from using IP to plan radiotherapy treatments to the use of DEA to evaluate and compare national health systems. The breadth and depth of HAS researchers was, and is, impressive. In addition to the high quality research, I continue to be impressed with the friendliness and collegiality of the HAS sessions. I always look forward to our annual sessions, not only to see what "people are up to," but also to renew old friendships and to meet new colleagues. Everyone in the section deserves congratulations for helping to foster this environment.

The past year also saw the addition of a new prize, the Bonder Scholarship for Research in Health Services, to complement the Pierskalla Best Paper Prize. The Bonder Scholarship, which is geared towards doctoral students at the beginning of their research career, will help raise the profile of the HAS within INFORMS and attract bright young researchers to the field. I would like to thank Seth Bonder for providing this award and congratulate Xuanming Su, from Stanford University, who was named as the award's first winner. Congratulations are also due to Michael Ferris, Jinho Lim, and David Shepard, this year's winner of the Pierskalla Paper Award, for their work entitled, *An Optimizing Approach for Radiosurgery Treatment Planning*. These two prizes and their winners highlight the quality of research being carried out in the HAS.

2003 looks to be another banner year for the Health Applications Section. The changes in the INFORMS organization means that the Section will have an increased say in the internal functioning of INFORMS. As the section grows, we can look forward to certification as a society within INFORMS. Look for a new, electronic voting system for Section officers in 2003. Finally, we anticipate another successful set of papers at the fall conference in Atlanta and the continued success of our two, very high profile section awards. If you are interested in chairing a session or contributing a paper at Atlanta, please contact Amy Wilson at arwilson@umn.edu.

Let me conclude by recognizing a number of people for their contributions to the Section. I would like, first of all, to thank David Sherman, our outgoing president, for his work during 2001-2002. In addition, I would like to thank Amy Wilson (Chair-Elect), Murray Côté (Secretary / Newsletter Editor), and Allen Holder (Treasurer / Web Person) for agreeing to serve on this year's executive. Thanks are also due to Timothy Butler, Liam O'Neil, Xuanming Su, and Gregory Zaric, who make up the Section Council. My thanks also go out to George Miller, who will chair the 2003 Bonder prize competition, Augustine Esogbue, who is chairing the 2003 Pierskalla prize competition, and to Mike Carter, who will chair the 2003 nominating committee. I look forward to seeing everyone again this fall in Atlanta.



The Bonder Scholarship for Research in Health Services

The *Health Applications Section* of INFORMS invites applications from qualified doctoral students for the **Bonder Scholarship for Research in Health Services**. Doctoral students, particularly those at the beginning of their programs, with an interest in the application of management sciences and operations research techniques 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 July 1, 2003 to the chairman of the Bonder Scholarship review committee, Dr. George Miller. Dr. Miller's contact information is provided on the following page.

Application Process (continued):

Dr. George Miller
The Altarum Institute
P.O. Box 134001
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-4001
USA

Phone: (734) 302-4640
Fax: (734) 302-4991
E-mail: george.miller@altarum.org

Notification: All applicants will be notified by September 15, 2003 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.

2002 Winner: Xuanming Su of Stanford University for “Allocation of Kidneys To Autonomous Transplant Candidates: A Sequential Stochastic Assignment Model.”

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 31 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 Vice 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 Vice President by July 31, 2003 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.

Applicants are asked to forward their submission by July 1, 2003 to the Dr. Amy Wilson, Vice President of the *Health Applications Section*. Dr. Wilson's contact information is provided on the following page.

Application Process (continued):

Dr. Amy Wilson
Division of Health Services Research and Policy
University of Minnesota
420 Delaware Street SE, MMC 729
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Phone: (612) 626-3732
Fax: (612) 624-2196
E-mail: arwilson@umn.edu

2002 Winner: Michael Ferris, Jinho Lim, and David Shepard for “An Optimization Approach for Radiosurgery Treatment Planning.”

Abstract: We consider a treatment planning problem for a specialized device known as the Gamma Knife, that is used for the treatment of tumors and vascular malformations within the head. A series of optimization problems are solved to produce a treatment plan. We present several modeling decisions that result in more efficient and robust solutions. We also present a new approach for determining starting points for the nonlinear programs, based on a skeletonization of the target volume.

Report from the Editor of *Health Care Management Science*

The Year in Review

The year 2002 marked another successful period in the history of *Health Care Management Science* (published by Kluwer Academic Publishers). Along with the successful publication of Volume 5, first three issues of Volume 6 are in the publication schedule and we are closing in on the fourth issue. This marks another remarkable accomplishment for HCMS sponsored by intellectual capital of INFORMS *Health Applications Section* members.

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 Institute for Scientific Information® (ISI) database. ISI has been considering HCMS for some time. To speed up the process, please e-mail them at journals@isninet.com and recommend that *Health Care Management Science* be included in their database. HCMS is a top-quality journal and deserves this recognition. Also, be sure to make note that HCMS is in the Medline database.

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

HCMS Publication Schedule for 2003

Health Care Management Science, Volume 6 No 1 (February 2003)

- Designing radiotherapy plans with elastic constraints and interior point methods. Allen Holder (Special Note: This paper was the INFORMS *Health Applications Section* winner of the Pierskalla Best Paper Award in 2000.)
- The initial effects of physician compensation programs in Taiwan hospitals: Implications for staff model HMOs. J. Romeis, H. Chu, S. Liu and C. Yaung
- Relevance of outlier cases in case mix systems and evaluation of trimming methods. F. Cots, D. Elvira, X. Castells, and M. Saez.
- Evaluating Medicaid HMO when encounter data are missing: Case of developmentally delayed children. F. Alemi, P.J. Maddox, V. Prudius, and V. Doyon.
- An exploratory study using data envelopment analysis to assess neurotrauma patients in the intensive care unit. B. Nathason, T. L. Higgins, R. J. Giglio, I. A. Munshi, and J. S. Steingrub.

Health Care Management Science, Volume 6 No 2 (May 2003)

- Comparing the financial risk of bed-day and DRG based pricing types using parametric simulation methods. H. Mikkola, R. Sund, M. Linna, and U. Hakkinen.
- IS/IT The prescription to enable medical group practices attain their goals. N. Wickramasinghe and J.B. Silvers.
- Appraising the economic efficiency of cancer treatment: An exploratory analysis of lung cancer. T. N. Chirikos.
- Analytical methods for calculating the capacity required to operate an effective booked admissions policy for elective inpatient services. M. Utley, S. Gallivan, T. Treasure, and O. Valancia.
- Client involvement in simulation model building: hints and insights from a case study in a London hospital. D. C. Lane, C. Monefeldt, and E. Houseman.
- Integrated healthcare network's performance: a linear growth modeling approach. T.T.H. Wan.

Health Care Management Science, Volume 6 No 3 (August 2003)

- Optimizing admissions to an intensive care unit. A. Shmueli, C.L. Sprung and E.H. Kaplan
- ARMADA-A computer model of the impact of environmental factors on health. M. Utley, S. Gallivan, J. Biddulph, M. McCarthy, and J. Ferguson
- Estimating out-of-hospital mortality due to myocardial infarction. L. O'Neill
- A dynamic Markov model for forecasting diabetes prevalence in the United States through 2050. A.A. Honeycutt, J.P. Boyle, K.R. Broglio, T.J. Thompson, T.J. Hoerger, L.S. Geiss and K.M.V. Narayan.
- Cost-effectiveness of colorectal cancer screening in the average risk population. M.L. Leshno, Z.H. Halpern, and N.A. Arber.
- Organizational efficiency and quality in Texas nursing facilities. K.J. Knox, E.C. Blankmeyer and J.R. Stutzman
- Horizontal inequity in health care utilization in Japan. Y. Ohkusa and C. Honda.

Health Care Management Science, Volume 6 No 4 (November 2003) Special Issue (augmented by regular submissions) in preparation.

Contents and abstracts of all volumes of *Health Care Management Science* are available from the Kluwer web site at www.kluweronline.com/issn/1386-9620.

Call for Referees for *Health Care Management Science*

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 in this newsletter 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! Fill out the form and send it to the editors.

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Health Care Management Science

Referee Profile



Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address (where to mail correspondence):

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*:

The *Health Applications Section* List Serve

The *Health Applications Section* has a new list serve!

As always, the intent of the list serve is to stimulate interaction and facilitate communication among the section members. Section members may use the list serve as a forum for discussing general questions about health care, health care management science, academic job postings, scholarship and conference announcements, and whatever else may be of interest. All section members are encouraged to subscribe to the list serve. The list serve's e-mail address is:

health-app-section@list.informs.org.

The HAS list serve web site is:

www.informs.org/mailman/listinfo/health-app-section.

You can visit the URLs to change your membership status or configuration, including unsubscribing, setting digest-style delivery or disabling delivery altogether (e.g., for a vacation), and so on.

Subscriber information

- About once a month, each subscriber will receive a reminder about your list.informs.org mailing list memberships. The reminder will include your subscription information and how you can use it to change your subscription or unsubscribe from a list.
- You can also modify your subscription via e-mail by sending a message to:

health-app-section-request@list.informs.org

with the word "help" in the subject or body (don't include the quotes), and you will get back a message with instructions.

- You must know your password to change your options (including changing the password, itself) or to unsubscribe.
- If you forget your password, don't worry; your monthly reminder will tell you what all your list.informs.org mailing list passwords are, and how to unsubscribe or change your options. There is also a button on your options web page that will e-mail your current password to you.
- If you have questions, problems, comments, etc, send them to:

mailman-owner@list.informs.org

Conference Announcements

2003 International Conference on Health Policy Research

Methodological Issues in Health Services and Outcomes Research
October 17-19, 2003, Chicago, IL, USA

Sponsored by the Health Policy Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association

The 2003 ICHPR will include a series of invited presentations and workshops focusing on provider profiling, including plenary speaker Jerod M. Loeb, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and banquet speaker Shoshanna Sofaer, Professor and Chair in Health Policy, Baruch College School of Public Affairs.

Several invited sessions will focus on methodological and practical issues related to provider profiling, including case studies and a panel discussion on constructing and reporting provider profiles. Additional sessions will cover a broad range of topics related to statistical issues in health policy research, including workshops on health economic evaluation; privacy, confidentiality and data security; using healthcare claims data for research; and invited sessions on predicting high-cost healthcare users and hierarchical modeling.

Call for Contributed Papers

The deadline for submission of abstracts for contributed papers and posters is July 15, 2003.

For more information, please see the conference website:

www.amstat-online.org/sections/hpss/ichpr.htm

Conference Announcements



CORS/INFORMS Joint International Meeting May 16-19, 2004 ■ The Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, Canada

The Conference

A premier conference with a full program of tracks and sessions covering the key areas in OR research and applications, co-hosted by CORS and INFORMS. The conference offers a full social program too, with two great receptions: the Welcome Reception being held at the Banff Centre, and the authentic Brewster Mountview Barbecue, complete with "original Alberta beef," a country and western band, and a giant bonfire!

The Location

Combining wild alpine beauty with first-class amenities, Banff offers vacation possibilities as diverse as the Canadian Rocky Mountain landscape itself. Few locations in the world have such stunning scenery, and few offer such warm hospitality and service. Our hotel, the Banff Centre is located in Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and just a few minutes outside the bustling town of Banff. The National Park is a year-round recreational area of valleys, mountains, glaciers, forests, meadows and rivers. You can tour historic sites, soak in hot springs, stroll along the shores of Lake Louise, and drive the Icefields Parkway into adjoining Jasper National Park.

For more information on this location, please go to: www.banfflakelouise.com

General Chair

Erhan Erkut
Erhan.erkut@ualberta.ca

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

Contact Us

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