

Call for Papers

Central European Journal of Operations Research (CJOR)

Special Issue on “Operations Research Applied to Health Services in Times of Crisis: Global Evolution and Challenges”

Submission Deadline: ~~December 1st, 2020~~ December 31st, 2020

Health care around the world is facing unprecedented challenges due to global development. There are ongoing technological advances in health care but they are not affordable for everyone. Migration and displacement pose one of the most significant humanitarian challenges. The changing population structure in many developed countries requires new approaches and solutions for health care. The slowdown in economic development in some countries around the world is also putting public health budgets under pressure. Climate change and political instability are increasingly affecting the health sector. As epidemics as well as various natural and man-made disasters pose particular threats, the health care sector must prepare for them urgently. Health care policy makers are therefore forced to provide high quality services with tight budgets and a limited workforce by taking ethical issues into account. For this, policy makers need decision support by qualitative and quantitative Operations Research (OR) approaches in order to prepare for these challenging situations by providing solutions for simple to even extreme scenarios.

To cope with health care challenges, the **EURO Working Group on Operational Research Applied to Health Services (ORAHS)** was formed in 1975 as part of a program for developing special interest groups within the European branch, EURO, of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies, IFORS. The group currently has 242 members from 30 countries, mainly from Europe but also from overseas (e.g., USA, Canada, and Brazil). The group meets for a week each summer in a different, mainly European, host country. Meetings are open to anyone with a quantitative background and/or an interest in the subject area. However, the number of participants can be limited to ensure that an open debate is possible. The objectives of the group are to impart ideas, knowledge and experience on the application of OR approaches and methods to problems in the health services area, mutual support of members, co-operation on joint projects and stimulation of approaches and attitudes in the field of applied Operational Research (<http://orahs.di.unito.it/about.html>).

In 2020, the 46th meeting is held at the University of Vienna, Austria (<https://orahs2020.univie.ac.at/>). This special issue is intended to reflect the recent contributions from the members of the EURO Working Group that were presented at ORAHS 2020 and address key health policy problems that cover (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- Access and waiting lists
- Ambulance management
- Capacity and network planning
- Cost effectiveness and health economics
- Emergency medical services
- Epidemiology and disease modelling
- Health care in disaster situations
- Health care information systems and e-health
- Healthcare policy modelling
- Home care and long term care
- Operating room planning and scheduling
- Patient scheduling
- Process optimization and care pathways
- Screening and prevention
- Workforce and capacity planning

Guest Editors: Prof. Dr. Roberto Aringhieri (roberto.aringhieri@unito.it),
Prof. Dr. Patrick Hirsch (patrick.hirsch@boku.ac.at),
Prof. Dr. Inês Marques (ines.marques.p@tecnico.ulisboa.pt),
Prof. Dr. Marion Rauner (marion.rauner@univie.ac.at),
Prof. Dr. Margit Sommersguter-Reichmann (margit.sommersguter@uni-graz.at)

Important Dates: Submission deadline of full papers: ~~December 1st, 2020~~ December 31st, 2020 .

Submission Details: Participants of ORAHS 2020 are cordially invited to submit contributions. The format of manuscripts for CJOR as well as guidelines and templates can be found on the Springer-Verlag website at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/cjor/>. Details on the submission procedure to the special issue will be announced. All papers submitted for publication are subject to a rigorous peer review. Please note that *only* contributions of **registered** participants of ORAHS 2020 can be accepted.