

Newsletter ORAHS

November 2007



Introduction

Dear colleagues/friends! Please find here the Autumn 2007 edition of our ORAHS Working Group Newsletter. With this newsletter we intend to give information on activities of the Working Group to its members and others who are interested in the Working Group.

If you have any relevant information, or if you want to write a short contribution for the next newsletter you can send it to Sally Brailsford (scb@soton.ac.uk).

Agenda of coming meetings

June 15 - 18, 2008

European Operations Management Association EurOMA 2008, Groningen The Netherlands
Health care track organizers: Urban Wemmerlöv (uwemmerlov@bus.wisc.edu) and Nancy Hyer (nancy.lea.hyer@owen.vanderbilt.edu)

July 13 - 18, 2008

IFORS2008, Sandton South Africa
Contacts: hittman@csir.co.za; <http://orssa.org.za>

July 28 - August 1, 2008

ORAHS34 Toronto Canada
Organizers Mike Carter (mike.oraHS@gmail.com) and John Blake (john.oraHS@gmail.com)
Website: <http://www.oraHS2008.com>

September 9 - 11, 2008

OR50 UK, York
Organizer health care stream Christos Vasilakis (c.vasilakis@ucl.ac.uk)

July 13 - 17, 2009 (proposed dates)

ORAHS35 Leuven Belgium
Organizer Erik Demeulemeester (Erik.Demeulemeester@econ.kuleuven.be)

ORAHS 2007 (report by Xiaolan Xie, www.emse.fr/oraHS, xie@emse.fr)

Xiaolan Xie has provided us with an extensive report that we show here in full.

Final report

1. **ORAHS'2007 in numbers**
2. **ORAHS'2007 by pictures**
3. **Objectives and principles**
4. **Organizing and program committee**
5. **Sponsors and partners**
6. **Final program of the conference**
7. **Participants by country**
8. **Publications**
9. **Conclusion**

ORAHS'2007, sponsored by EURO, ROADEF, GDR-RO, GDR-MACS and IFR 143 IFRESIS, is a unique international conference since over 30 years on engineering and management of health care delivery including issues related to design and management of health care systems and clinical applications. It aims bringing together researchers, health professionals, IT solution providers and consultants in the area.

1. ORAHS'2007 in numbers

ORAHS'2007 attracted in Saint Etienne **151 participant** plus about 30 accompanying persons from **21 countries** with a truly international dimension with **less than 33% of French participants**. ORAHS'2007 is by far the ORAHS meeting with the largest attendance as the conference is usually attended by less than 60 participants with the previous historical peak attained in 2005 in Southampton (UK) which attracted about 80 participants.

The scientific program contained **over 100 technical presentations** grouped into *24 sessions during 5 days*. The final papers of these technical presentations will be published in a post-conference proceedings.

In parallel, a **tutorial track** was organised during **one day and half**. **Six renowned researchers** of the field gave each a **tutorial lecture of 2 hours**. The quality of the tutorial track and the tutorial lecturers made this program highly attracted and the tutorial lectures were **attended by 40-80 participants** including both young researchers and senior researchers.

Three international journals: *Annals of Operations Research, Health Care Management Sciences, International Journal of Healthcare Information Systems & Informatic* will publish special issues/volumes of ORAHS'2007.

2. ORAHS'2007 by pictures (available on www.emse.fr/orahs)

3. Objectives and principles

The annual meeting of ORAHS brings together a network of persons involved in the application of systematic, quantitative analysis in support of planning and management in the health services sector. **The EURO Working Group on Operational Research Applied to Health Services** was

formed in 1975 as part of a programme for developing special interest groups within the European branch, [EURO](#) of the International Federation of Operational research Societies, [IFORS](#). The group has at present 112 members from 22 countries, mainly in Europe but also with 17 from overseas. The 33rd ORAHS meeting took place in Saint Etienne, France. It is the second time that ORAHS is organised in France, the first one being organised in Paris in 1980. ORAHS conference proposes a scientific program of 5 days following the same format with (i) presentation and debate with local health decision-makers and leaders of research initiatives in health care delivery, (ii) technical presentations, (iii) field visits and tours and (iv) a rich social program.

The 33rd ORAHS meeting was jointly organised by three institutions the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Saint Etienne (ENSM.SE), the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Saint Etienne (CHU-Saint Etienne), and the Université Jean Monnet Saint Etienne (UJM). These three institutions have been collaborating since several years on research in health care delivery engineering. The ORAHS'2007 conference was held in ENSM.SE.

ORAHS'2007 have the following objectives:

- Pursuing the tradition of ORAHS annual meetings with (i) presentation and debate with local health decision-makers and leaders of research initiatives in health care delivery, (ii) technical presentations, (iii) Technical tour to CHU-Saint Etienne with discussion on its on-going reengineering projects;
- Bring together and identify synergy between the ORAHS group and other national working groups on management and engineering of health care systems including the French speaking group [GISEH](#) with feature sessions on research in each country/region.
- Identify the industrial needs and the state of the art of software solutions in health;
- Present French initiatives in both research and education in the area of health and engineering. It will identify challenges of health care delivery that need joint European research efforts and explore strategies and actions for joint proposals for EC-funded research and development projects.
- Organise for Ph.D. students and local health professionals an introductory and advanced tutorial track of two-days on advanced techniques in health care delivery engineering.

Organizing and program committee

International Program Committee (IPC)

IPC Chair: Xiaolan Xie, Division of Engineering and Health, ENSM.SE, France

Hari Balasubramanian (USA)	Françoise Lorca (FR)
Sally Brailsford (UK)	Eric Marcon (FR)
Michael Carter (CA)	Nadine Meskens (BE)
Thierry J. Chausalet (UK)	Stefan Nickel (D)
Vanda De Angelis (IT)	Yasar A. Ozcan (USA)
Frank Dexter (USA)	Marion Rauner (AT)
Steve Gallivan (UK)	François Sainfort (USA)
Michel Gourgand (FR)	Arjan Shahani (UK)
Alain Guinet (FR)	Leyuan Shi (USA)
Erwin Hans (NL)	Christian Tahon (FR)
Zhibin Jiang (CN)	Joseph Tan (USA)
Pierre Ladet (FR)	Christine Verdier (FR)
Eva Lee (USA)	Jan Vissers (NL)
Liming Liu (CN)	Philippe Wieser (CH)

Organizing Committee (OC)

OC co-chair: Xiaolan Xie, ENSM.SE, France

OC co-chair: Eric Marcon, UJM, France

OC co-chair: Françoise Lorca, CHU-Saint Etienne, France

Didier Bernache, Alexandre Dolgui, Frederic Grimaud, Johann Dréo, Françoise Bresson, Fatiha Adsi, Mehdi Lamiri, Vincent Augusto

5. Sponsors and partners

ORAHS'2007 was sponsored by the following scientific associations:

EURO

ROADEF

GDR RO

GDR MACS

We would like to express our profound gratitude to our institutional partners who believed in our project and brought subvention that made the organisation of this event possible.

6. Final program of the conference

The scientific program of ORAHS'2007 addresses all important aspects of health care delivery engineering with ::

- ***A session "Local Health policies and operations research in health" to compare French health policies and European health policies.*** It brings together Denis Debrosse, conseiller général des hôpitaux du ministère de la santé, David Bensley, Department of Health – UK, Robert Reichert, Chairman and CEO of CHU-Saint Etienne, Sebastien Woynar of the Mission nationale d'Evaluation et d'Audit Hospitalier (MEAH)
- ***A session "French research initiatives"*** with Michel Baer, SAMU93 – APHP and coordinator of the European project HESCUAEP on emergency care network, Alain Guinet, leader of the French speaking group GISEH on health care delivery engineering and Eric Marcon, coordinator of the HRP3 project funded by the Region of Rhone-Alps on engineering of emergency care.
- ***A Session "Software solutions in health"*** with experts from ILOG - FR and ORTEC – NL about their research and development policies on health care delivery optimization.
- ***A 3 hour technical tour to CHU-Saint Etienne*** for observation of its biological testing platform, operating theatre and central cuisine.

- *A session "Project Ideas" for identification of scientific hurdles in health care delivery engineering that require collaborative research at international level.* Contributors of this well attended session include Xiaolan Xie – FR, Sally Brailsford – UK, Erwin Hans – NL, Eva Lee – USA, Joseph Tan – USA, N. Ravichandran – IN.
- *A "Tutorial track" with 6 tutorial lectures of 2 hours each by 6 renown researchers of the field* Yasar Ozacan – USA, Franklin Dexter – USA, Mike Carter – CA, Arjan Shahani – UK, Ruth Davies – UK and Eva Lee – USA. The exceptional quality of the tutorial lectures made the tutorial track highly attractive with fantastic attendance of 40-80 participants of both young and senior researchers.
- *101 technical presentations grouped into 24 sessions.*

The technical presentations addressed all aspects of health care delivery engineering such as:

- Operating theatre optimization
- Patient flow planning
- New paradigm
- Health informatics & information systems
- Staffing and capacity planning
- Health information systems
- Healthcare delivery engineering in Mediterranean
- Modelling and simulation
- Emergency care
- Operating rooms planning
- Location and transportation planning
- Optimization of core hospital resources in the Netherlands
- Performance assessment
- Disease modelling and clinic pathway
- Organisational issues
- Work Organisation
- Stochastic models
- Hospital supply chains
- Patient safety and quality of care

7. Participants by countries

ORAHS'2007 attracted 151 participants from 21 countries that made ORAHS'2007 a truly international conference. In addition, there were about 30 accompanying persons for which a rich "accompanying persons program" of 5 days was organised.

ORAHS'2007 is by far the ORAHS meeting with the largest attendance as the conference is usually attended by less than 60 participants with the previous historical peak attained in 2005 in Southampton (UK) which attracted about 80 participants.

The following table shows the international dimension of ORAHS'2007.

	Country	N Participants	%
1	Australia	1	0,66
2	Austria	1	0,66
3	Belgium	12	7,95
4	Brazil	3	1,99
5	Canada	6	3,97
6	China	3	1,99
7	Finland	3	1,99
8	France	50	33,11
9	Germany	3	1,99
10	India	1	0,66
11	Iran	3	1,99
12	Ireland	3	1,99
13	Italy	6	3,97
14	Morocco	1	0,66
15	Poland	1	0,66
16	Switzerland	2	1,32
17	The Netherlands	14	9,27
18	Tunisia	6	3,97
19	Turkey	1	0,66
20	UK	24	15,89
21	USA	7	4,64
	Total	151	

8. Publications

The exceptional quality of the technical presentations of ORAHS'2007 will be disseminated by (i) a post-conference proceedings to be published in 2008 and (ii) three special issues in the following international journals with expected publication around the end of 2008:

Annals of Operations Research (special volume, 400 pages)

Health Care Management Science (special issue, 130 pages)

International Journal of Healthcare Information Systems and Informatics (special issue, 130 pages)

9. Conclusion

With 101 technical presentation, ORAHS'2007 is an intense and rich international conference in a field of world-wide concerns. With sessions "Local health policies ...", "Project ideas", "Software solutions in health" and other feature sessions by national/region groups, ORAHS'2007 innovated to bring together all major actors in health care delivery engineering. With 151 participants from 21 countries, ORAHS'2007 made this EURO working group meeting a major international conference in health care delivery engineering. With 12 hours of tutorial lectures by renown specialists, ORAHS'2007 offered young researchers and health professionals a comprehensive understanding of advanced techniques in health care delivery. ORAHS'2007 successfully promoted the Region of Rhone-Alps as one of the leading area in health care delivery engineering research.

ORAHS 2008

ORAHS 2008 will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada from July 28 to August 1, 2008. This will be the first time in ORAHS history that the annual meeting venue is in North America. Appropriately, the theme is International Perspectives on Operations Research and Health Care. This conference will be a great opportunity to share ideas with fellow health care operation researchers from North America, Europe and the world.

The conference will be held at the University of Toronto, one of the largest universities in Canada and North America. The University is also conveniently located near more than five large teaching hospitals, each of which conduct and encourage operations research within their facilities to continuously improve their patient care.

When traveling to Toronto, some neighboring attractions around Toronto worth staying around for include: Niagara Falls, Algonquin Park, Ottawa, Tobermory

ORAHS PhD workshops will be taking place at the University of Toronto on July 24/25, 2008 as a part of the ORAHS Annual Conference. 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 ran by prominent researchers in these fields. There will be financial support available for students attending this event.

Visit the website at <http://morlab.mie.utoronto.ca/ORAHS2008/>

EURO- info

EURO has an extensive website with information on EURO conferences and EURO Working Groups. The website contains also an annual report of ORAHS. The EURO vice-president 2 in charge of the Working Groups has become Professor Marc Sevaux, University of South Brittany, Lester France, who is *ex officio* a member of our working group. For more information about EURO, see www.euro-online.org

Web-site news *(report by Sally Brailsford)*

The ORAHS website contains information about many of the previous meetings of the group, going back as far as 1975 when the first ever meeting was held (in Exeter, UK under the chairmanship of Duncan Boldy). It is updated again with new members' details and updates from current members. Please check your details and if you would like anything changed, email Sally (scb@soton.ac.uk). We welcome ideas and suggestions for the website.

The new website is up and running at <http://www.management.soton.ac.uk/orahs/>. If you have not already done so, please update your bookmarks. For the time being, you will be re-routed here from the old site, but I'm not sure how long this will continue. There are some features which still remain to be updated, but the site is database-driven which means that it will be much easier to maintain in the future.

Short communications

Proceedings ORAHS32 Wroclaw (report by Marek Lubicz)

Marek reports that there are still difficulties with the proceedings of the Wroclaw meeting in 2006. He has up to now received only 6 papers (Janusz Zaleski, Penelope Mullen, Christina Pagel, Luc Delesie, John Blake, Martin Utley). He has been promised in total 7 more papers. He needs some extra papers to have sufficient critical mass for a publication, so please help Marek with sending in the promised papers.

Leaving Southampton and starting in Cardiff (report by Paul Harper)

Cyfarchion o Gaerdydd i bob o fy ffrindiau ORAHS!

(Greetings from Cardiff to all my ORAHS friends!)

At the start of September I moved from Southampton University and took up my new post as Professor of OR at Cardiff University. Jan kindly asked me to write about my first impressions and plans for the future, so here goes...

For the first four years of my new position, I am officially a Research Chair within the newly established Welsh Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences (WIMCS). WIMCS is a £10 million (€14 million) funded initiative (with £5m awarded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, and matching funds from four Welsh Universities) to: provide a critical mass of researchers who will raise the profile of Mathematics, Statistics and OR in Wales and to gain international recognition; to link with industry, commerce and business and to generate research funding; and to act as a forum for education and public awareness of the mathematical sciences and to support inter-disciplinary research. Since arriving here, I have been exploring ways to collaborate with others in the WIMCS Statistics/OR cluster (which I will lead from next January), as well as possible collaborations across WIMCS clusters (such as with Applied Maths) and to external bodies such as the Welsh Assembly Government, Wales Office of Research and Development of Health and Social Care (WORD) and Informing Health Care (IHC) Wales. Certainly being within a capital city is an exciting place to be surrounded by major agencies and should provide excellent networking opportunities and ways to demonstrate the benefits of OR modelling for health policy. This is especially possible as Wales, with its own Assembly, enjoys a certain amount of devolved power from Parliament in London and thus the ability in part to commission its own healthcare research agenda and build capacity and infrastructure across the country. To act as a focus for the modelling work, my future plans include the creation of a dedicated healthcare modelling centre. All of this will build on the existing strong research profile and links to healthcare organisations by some colleagues in the OR group: Professor Jeff Griffiths (current president of the UK OR Society and head of the OR group) and Dr Janet Williams. It is a pleasure to be in Cardiff working with Jeff and Janet.

I also very much hope to bring ORAHS here one day so you can all enjoy the delights of the Welsh Capital (oddy enough I don't seem to have been put off by helping with the 2005 ORAHS/ESI two week marathon meeting in Southampton – maybe time really does heal!). Cardiff is continually evolving with significant investment to the city. There is a certain buzz about the place which includes the developed Bay area with marinas, restaurants/bars, the Welsh Millennium Centre and Welsh Assembly Government building. I hope you may all want to come and see this for yourself one day.

As well as WIMCS, another recent major success at Cardiff is the award (along with three other Universities) of funding for OR in the UK. At Cardiff we have been awarded around £3 million (€4.2 million) which will fund a number of permanent OR posts, starting with 2 new lectureships next year, as well as a number of post-docs and PhD studentships.

As for Southampton, well I can't seem to leave poor Sally alone! We are both working on a two year research project as well as jointly supervising some PhD students, so there are still lots of good reasons for me to travel back. We were also crazy enough to agree to co-chair the next UK OR Society annual conference, OR50, which is the golden anniversary event. Actually we hope that many of our ORAHS friends from across the World may want to come and help us make this the biggest UK OR conference yet. It takes place in the beautiful historic city of York, 9-11 September 2008.

Well I think I've probably said enough for now. I'd just like to finish by adding that it would always be a pleasure to host other academics in Cardiff or for you to give a seminar if you happen to be passing or are nearby, so please do keep this in mind. I hope to see you all at the next ORAHS in fabulous Toronto. In the meantime, it just remains for me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and successful 2008.

Paul Harper, Cardiff School of Mathematics
Email: harper@cardiff.ac.uk Tel: ++44 (0)29 2087 6841

Start of a Health OR Working Group in the Netherlands (report by Erwin Hans)

As evident from the last few ORAHS meetings, OR researchers from the Netherlands are becoming increasingly interested in the field of healthcare. The Netherlands OR society "NGB" recognized this, and a year ago its former chairman Joris van de Klundert approached me to found a working group "OR in healthcare" in the Netherlands, similar to the working groups in other European countries.

To discuss this idea with the active and candidate researchers, we organized an international conference at the University of Twente (Enschede, NL) on November 19 & 20. The conference was a great success: 90 participants from the Netherlands, UK, Germany, Austria, Italy and the US contributed some 40 presentations. There were invited lectures from Jan Vissers (NL), Marion Rauner (A), Sally Brailsford (UK), Stefan Nickel (G) and Yasar Ozcan (US).

We closed the meeting with a panel discussion and reached a consensus on establishing a Dutch working group. The Dutch working group aims to enhance the dissemination of research outcomes to practice, to stimulate collaboration (nationally, and internationally), and thus further strengthen this research field in the Netherlands. Jan and Sally's promotion of ORAHS at the conference will undoubtedly lead to an increased Dutch contribution to ORAHS.

Next year, the conference will be followed up in Rotterdam at Erasmus University.

For more information:

Conference website, with photos:
Netherlands OR society:

<http://www.mb.utwente.nl/orhealthcare>

<http://www.ngb-online.nl>