

Newsletter ORAHS

May 2009



Introduction

Dear colleagues/friends! Please find here the Spring 2009 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 are willing to write a short contribution for the next newsletter you can send it to Sally Brailsford (s.c.brailsford@soton.ac.uk). In particular we welcome short contributions from PhD students on their research. We had in the previous newsletter the story of Dileep de Silva from the School of Management University of Southampton. Peter van Berkel from UT is featuring in this Newsletter.

Agenda of coming meetings

June 14-17, 2009

EurOMA 2009, Goteborg Sweden

Healthcare Operations Management track, contacts: Urban Wemmerlöv (uwemmerlov@bus.wisc.edu) and Nancy Hyer (nancy.lea.hyer@owen.vanderbilt.edu).
www.EurOMA2009.org,

July 5-8, 2009

EURO XXIII Bonn Germany

Health Care Management stream, organizers: Stefan Nickel, Marion Rauner, Teresa Melo, Jan Vissers

[www. Euro-2009.de/](http://www.Euro-2009.de/)

July 13-17, 2009

ORAHS35 Leuven Belgium

Organizer Erik Demeulemeester (Erik.Demeulemeester@econ.kuleuven.be)

<http://econ.kuleuven.be/ORAHS2009/>

February 18-20, 2010

IEEE Workshop on Health Care Management (WHCM 2010)

Organizers Maria Pia Fanti, MengChu Zhou, Walter Ukovich

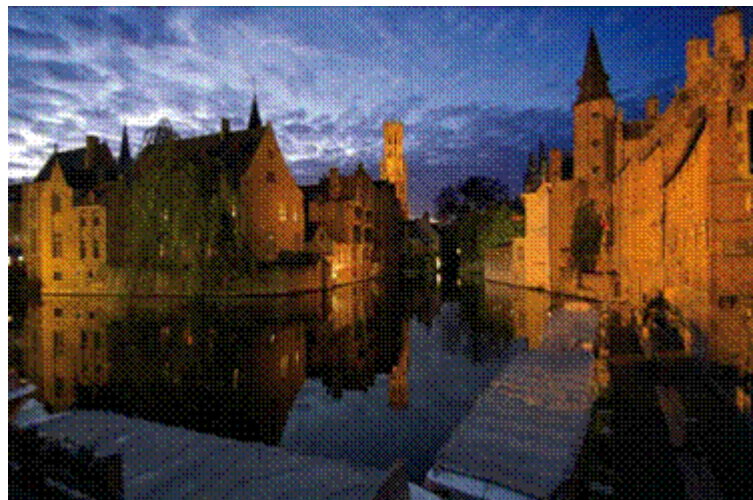
www.deei.units.it/WHCM2010/

ORAHS 2009 (report by Erik Demeulemeester, Erik.Demeulemeester@econ.kuleuven.be)

This summer (July 12-17, 2009), the 35th ORAHS meeting will be held in Leuven, Belgium. The theme of this year is "Rethinking health services management". The meeting will be held at the Faculty of Business and Economics of the Catholic University of Leuven, located at Naamsestraat 69. Three weeks before the deadline for early registration, we have some 30 registered attendees and some 30 abstracts (not necessarily a one-to-one relationship between both).

The welcome party on Sunday evening at the Domus, a typical Belgian pub that sells the full range of Belgian and other beers, among which a few beers that are brewed just below the pub, might be the perfect start for a sound scientific meeting in which we expect some 150 researchers from all around the globe to participate. The link between science and practice will always be present: Dr. Bruno Holthof, the CEO of the Hospital Network Antwerp and a former partner of McKinsey, will be the plenary speaker on Monday morning, and a number of hospital services in Gasthuisberg, the university hospital of Leuven, will be visited on Tuesday afternoon.

Next to the core part of the meeting, a stimulating social program is provided for the attendees and their partners. On Monday, a guided tour of the historic town of Leuven will be organized, finishing at the splendid Gothic town hall of Leuven, where a reception with local beers (what else?) will be offered by the city of Leuven.



On Wednesday, all participants are invited for a joint trip to Bruges, the Venice of the North and one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. A guided tour of the city is provided as well as a cruise on Bruges' canals during which you will discover secret gardens, picturesque bridges and wonderfully beautiful still lives. Bruges is certainly a city that you have to visit once in your life, why not during ORAHS 2009 in the presence of many friends?

On Thursday, the conference dinner will be held in the Faculty Club, a splendid restaurant located in the calm and tranquility of the 13th century Infirmierie of the Grand Beguinage. In March 2000, the ancient historical site of the Grand Beguinage was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

For the partners, we foresee visits to Brussels, the capital of Belgium, on Monday, to the ancient city of Ghent on Tuesday and on Thursday to Antwerp, the city of fashion and Rubens.

Situated in the heart of Western Europe, the Catholic University of Leuven has been a centre of learning for almost six centuries. Founded in 1425 by Pope Martin V, the Catholic University of Leuven bears the double honour of being the oldest existing Catholic university in the world and the oldest university in the Low Countries. Leuven itself is a small (some 93.000 inhabitants for some 31.000 university students) but lively city that has a perfect mix between science and culture (for instance, every Friday evening of July, there is "Beleuvenissen", which stands for free concerts of music on several squares in the center of town). And if you are looking to taste some good beer, you needn't look very far in Leuven. See you there this summer.

For more information, please visit our website (<http://econ.kuleuven.be/ORAH2009/>) or contact Erik Demeulemeester (Erik.Demeulemeester@econ.kuleuven.be).

PhD researchers tell their story (report by Peter Vanberkel, p.t.vanberkel@utwente.nl)



My name is Peter Vanberkel and I'm a PhD student at the University of Twente, The Netherlands. Although I have Dutch name I'm actually a Canadian who grew up in Nova Scotia. Before moving to the Netherlands with my wife, I worked as an Industrial Engineer at a Children's Hospital in Nova Scotia.

At the University of Twente I work within the Center for Healthcare Operations Improvement and Research (CHOIR). My research is in partnership with the Netherlands Cancer Institute – Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital (NKI-AVL) where I spend two days per week. With the hospital we jointly define research projects and work to ensure the results are implemented. The broad objective of my research is to use operational research models to streamline patient flows and break down the barriers that exist between hospital departments.

When asked what I find most interesting about the Netherlands I always respond that the most interesting things are observed from the trains. From the trains you can truly appreciate how flat the landscape is and from the train stations you can begin to appreciate how many bikes there are. Partially out of necessity, I spend almost an hour a day on my bike and entirely due to the landscape, I enjoy it.

Besides biking, the other major distraction from my research is ice hockey. As a Canadian, I received a hero's welcome when I showed up at the rink for the first time. Shortly into the season I found myself running practices and acting as a player-coach. We have yet to win the student hockey league but we're hopeful next year will be the year! This winter was a bit extra ordinary in the Netherlands. It was the first winter in recent memory that it was cold enough for outdoor skating. Thousands of people flocked to a lake near my house to skate; at least 40 came with hockey sticks. The picture above was from that afternoon.

My first ORAH2009 conference was in 2005 in Southampton. I had recently started my Master's degree and, although I had been to many conferences, this was the first one where I noticed a

real sense of community amongst the delegates. At the meeting I developed many professional relationships, including with Erwin Hans, who later offered me and arranged my current PhD position. Furthermore I learned a great deal and gained a real perspective on the healthcare research happening in Europe. I was happy to find the same welcoming atmosphere last summer in Toronto and I am sure I'll have the same great experience this July in Leuven.

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 is 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 can be found at <http://www.management.soton.ac.uk/orahs/>. It has been updated with a link to the 2009 conference. It contains two lists of members, the "link members" for each country and the "national members" from that country. This is still not the full membership list as it contains fewer names than the mailing list. We are planning to develop a system to allow people to add their names and amend their details online. In addition to this, we welcome ideas and suggestions for the website.

Short communications

Post conference publications ORAHS2008 (report by John Blake john.blake@dal.ca)

I can report that we had a small number of submissions for the proceedings (14 in total). All 14 papers have been out for a first review and, in most cases, a second round as of May 1, 2009. I anticipate that we'll have the papers published by the end of the summer.

Post conference publications of ORAHS2007 (report from Xiaolan Xie xie@emse.fr)

The post-conference proceedings of ORAHS'2007 have now been sent to ORAHS'2007 participants (Xiaolan Xie, Francoise Lorca, and Eric Marcon, Operations Research for Health Care Delivery Engineering, *Publication de l'Université de Saint-Etienne*, 2009, 580 pages, ISBN: 978-2-86272-507-9).

Three special issues/volume come out of the ORAHS2007 conference.

International Journal of Healthcare Information Systems and Informatics, 2008, 3(4), Frédérique Laforest and Paul Harper (ed) "**Joint advances in Information Systems and Operational Research applied to Health Care**" (5 papers).

Health Care Management Science, 12(2), pp. 117-200, 2009, expected in June, Franklin Dexter, Eric Marcon and Xiaolan Xie (ed), "**Operational research applied to health services 2007 special issue**" (8 papers + editorial).

Annals of Operations Research, 2009, in Press, Xiaolan Xie, Steve Gallivan, Alain Guinet, and Marion Rauner (eds) "**Operations Research Applied to Health Services**" (15 papers).

Proceedings ORAHS32 Wroclaw (report by Marek Lubicz marek.lubicz@pwr.wroc.pl)
My editorial work on the ORAHS book is progressing more or less according to the schedule. I received nearly all promised contributions; still waiting for a number translations from Polish authors and the Foreword (and maybe also a Viewpoint?) from the Chairman of our Working Group. The book (around 350 pages) will not be entitled "proceedings" as most contributions are not based on the presentations given at 2006 Meeting. I will know by the end of May whether I could have the book printed before Leuven Meeting.

ASOR-2009 (report by Leonid Churilov lchurilov@nsri.org.au)

Leonid Churilov, who has moved from Monash University, Melbourne to the Division of Statistics and Decision Support, National Stroke Research Institute, was asked to coordinate the Health Care Systems Stream at the Australian Society for Operations Research 20th National Conference. The conference is to take place at Gold Coast on 27-30 Sep 2009. I would like to invite ORAHS participants to consider presenting their research at this forum. Sally Brailsford is one of the keynote speakers in the conference. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 30 April. Abstracts can be e-mailed to me at: lchurilov@nsri.org.au Detailed information about the conference can be found at the conference website at <http://www.asor.org.au/conf2009/>

OR 51 (report by Sally Brailsford S.C.Brailsford@soton.ac.uk)

“Simulation Unlimited” - the Simulation Stream at the 2009 OR Society Annual Conference, University of Warwick, 8-10 September. You would have thought that after all the work that Paul Harper and I put in last year organising OR50, that I would have had the sense to take a break this year and attend OR51 as an ordinary delegate. However, you would be wrong.... I am running the Simulation stream, which covers ALL forms of simulation - hence the title. It does not matter what flavour of simulation you use - agent based, DES, SD, Monte Carlo, 'business game' or role-play simulation or any hybrid or combination of the above! **All you need to do now is send in your abstract.** All are welcome and should make for a really exciting stream. We shall, for example, be running sessions with an application-based theme where several contrasting simulation approaches are used for similar problems. Full details of the OR51 conference, with information how to submit your abstract, can be found on the OR society website <http://www.theorsociety.com>