

Newsletter ORAHS

April 2004



Introduction

Dear colleagues/friends! Please find here the spring 2004 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 27 – July 2, 2004

Thirtieth meeting of the European Working Group on Operational Research Applied to Health Services (ORAHS) at Stockholm Gerontology Research Center
Stockholm, Sweden.

Information: Mårten Lagergren, Stockholm Gerontology Research Center, e-mail:
Marten.Lagergren@aldrecentrum.se

July 4 – 7, 2004

EURO XX Conference
Rhodes, Greece

Information: ysiskos@unipi.gr

September 7 - 9, 2004

OR46: Annual Conference of the UK OR Society
The University of York, England
Information: www.theorsociety.com

July 31 – August 5, 2005

Thirty first meeting of ORAHS

University of Southampton, United Kingdom

Information: Sally Brailsford, University of Southampton, e-mail: scb@soton.ac.uk

July 24 – August 5, 2005

EURO Summer Institute on “OR in Health”. University of Southampton, UK.

Information: Sally Brailsford, University of Southampton, e-mail: scb@soton.ac.uk

ORAHS 2004 Meeting in Stockholm *(report by Mårten Lagergren)*

The ORAHS Working Group meets every year for one week in a different host country. In 2004, the 30th annual meeting of the Working Group will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, from June 27th to July 2nd. Preparations are now well underway for the 30th ORAHS meeting in Summer 2004. The meeting is organised by Mårten Lagergren, Stockholm Gerontology Research Center, aided by Rose-Marie Hedberg and Lena Lundberg from the same center (see picture of the organizing committee below).



Details of the meeting can be found at the website www.aldrecentrum.se/orahs. The members of the Working Group are all cordially invited to the meeting. A full program of the meeting will be available at the website at the end of May. The social program includes among others a boat trip in the beautiful Stockholm archipelago and visit to the Lagergren summerhouse for a traditional Swedish midsummerparty!

ORAHS 2005 and the EURO Summer Institute on OR in Health *(report by Sally Brailsford)*

ORAHS 2005 will be held at the University of Southampton, UK. The School of Management has agreed to host the conference, which will take place between 31 July - 5 August. Note: this will give you plenty of time to recover from IFORS in Hawaii.

In parallel with this, but starting a week earlier, we are also holding a EURO Summer Institute (ESI) on "OR in Health". The purpose of an ESI is to allow promising new researchers across Europe to meet, discuss their research, have fun and establish contacts which will hopefully prove fruitful in their later careers. Hence there is a strong emphasis on the social programme in an ESI, and EURO's information sheet for organisers says that "activities such as meals, garden parties, hikes, sporting activities, tourist visits etc. are organised for the participants in order to stimulate friendly relations". We will aim to restrict the more strenuous "sporting activities" to the first week!

EURO pays for the accommodation and registration costs for the participants. This covers guest speakers' travel expenses. Each member country is allowed to send one participant, whose travel costs are paid for by the national OR Society of that country. If more than one person in any country applies, the candidates have to submit a paper to their national OR Society, which then selects the best. Typically, there are 15-20 participants. An ESI has a Scientific Committee (see below) which also prepares a special issue of EJOR devoted to the Institute. Ed Kaplan from Yale has agreed to be the keynote speaker and will attend both weeks. We hope that several of the international speakers from ORAHS 2005 will attend during the first week to run tutorial sessions at the ESI. They will join the Programme Committee to form the Scientific Committee.

The ESI organising committee is Sally Brailsford, Paul Harper, Chris Potts (all University of Southampton) and Martin Pitt (University of Exeter), with additional help from Chris Sherlaw-Johnson and Martin Utley (both CORU, University of London). EURO requires that one organising committee member should have attended a previous ESI, and we are lucky that Chris Potts is on hand to fulfil this role! The Programme Committee consists of the above people, plus Ruth Davies (University of Warwick, UK), Jan Vissers (University of Eindhoven and Erasmus Medical Centre, The Netherlands), Marion Rauner (University of Vienna, Austria), Vanda de Angelis (University of Rome, Italy) and Michael Carter (University of Toronto, Canada).

Hopefully, we will all make lots of new friends and contacts and ORAHS will benefit by the introduction of a significant number of new members. I purposely do not say "young", although in practice most ESI participants are young, and are either current PhD students nearing completion, or recently graduated PhD's. The ESI will be publicised in due course via EURO and the member countries' national OR Societies, but if you know anyone who may be eligible, now is the time to let them know.

EURO- info

EURO has an extensive website with information on EURO conferences and EURO Working Groups. The new EURO vice-president 2 in charge of the Working Groups is Professor Chris Potts, Faculty of Mathematical Studies, University of Southampton, who is not only *ex officio* a member of our working group, but has become a regular attendee of our meetings. For more information about EURO, see www.euro-online.org

A new version of the website has become available since December 2001. Working Groups can now update their own information, and annual reports of Working Groups can be printed from the site directly.

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 has been updated last year with additional details about several previous meetings - thanks to my PhD student Korina Katsaliaki for doing this, and to everyone who sent us information. If you have any information about the remaining meetings, please contact me (scb@soton.ac.uk). You can find the website at the following address: <http://www.soton.ac.uk/~orahsweb>. We welcome ideas and suggestions for the website.

Short communications

Proceedings ORAHS2003 meeting in Prague (report by Martin Dlouhy)

The last meeting of the EURO Working Group "Operational Research Applied to Health Services" took place at the University of Economics in Prague. The statistics from the meeting tell that we heard 35 presentations. In total, 18 papers were submitted for the proceedings, 11 of them are now in a final version. If everything goes OK with the editing process, the proceedings will be published at the end of this year as a paperback at the University of Economics in Prague.

As you likely know, I am currently a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, and will be there till August. So I will miss the next ORAHS meeting, which will be held in Stockholm, Sweden. I use, therefore, this newsletter as an opportunity to say hello to all of you and hoping to meet you at the meeting in 2005.

Health Care Modelling and Optimisation Stream at APMOD2004 (report by Elia El-Darzi)

From June 20 till June 30 the Applied Mathematical Programming and Modelling Conference is held at the Brunel University in London, UK. Elia El-Darzi (eldarze@westminster.ac.uk) is organizing a health care stream. It is expected that papers in this stream will be concerned with the application of management science in health care domains, covering topics such as patient flow, resource scheduling and planning and knowledge discovery. Papers presented in this stream will be considered for publication in a special issue on 'Health Care Modelling and Optimisation' of the Computational Management Science Journal published by Springer. For conference details (<http://www.apmod.org.uk>).

Jan Vissers and Guus de Vries professors in health operations management (report by Jan Vissers)

Jan Vissers and Guus de Vries have both been appointed since 1st of February 2004 as professors in health operations management at Erasmus University Rotterdam (Erasmus Medical Centre/institute for Health Policy and Management). Jan's appointment in Rotterdam is for two days a week, combining this academic position with his main job as senior management consultant at Prismant - an institute for health care management development in Utrecht. With this new academic position he will reduce his academic activities for Eindhoven University, though he will maintain his links with this university on ongoing projects in the field of health operations management. Guus de Vries - who is also member of ORAHS - is appointed for one day a week, combining it with his main job as partner and management consultant at DamhuisElshoutVerschure - a management consultancy organization in Den Bosch.

Health Operations Management is a new chair, installed at the institute for Health Policy and Management - an interdisciplinary institute that makes part of Erasmus Medical Centre, which includes the University Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Jan and Guus have given recently a 7-week course on health operations management for the master programme of Health Care Management, covering different topics of patient flow logistics in health care. The book on Health Operations Management, which Jan is editing together with Roger Beech from Keele University, is used as textbook for this course. Research activities will concern topics as developing approaches for planning and managing the flow of patients in health and applying principles of supply chain management to chain care in health (for instance stroke services).

Health Care Technology Management PhD Workshop Vienna (report by Marion Rauner)

I would like to draw your attention to the 1st Health Care Technology Management PhD Workshop that will be held in Vienna, Austria, on 30-31 August 2004. This will be a tremendous opportunity for PhD students to network internationally and begin to establish research relationships among peers from diverse backgrounds and with diverse experiences and interests. The programme will be highly interactive and offers the opportunity for students to broaden their outlook on their own research and to contribute to the research of others. Would you please be so kind to bring it to the attention of PhD students you supervise (or know otherwise) who might be interested in attending this workshop? More information can be found on the HCTM website:

http://www.hctm.net/events/PhD_Workshop_2004/PhD_Workshop_2004.html

Nosokinetics, a bimonthly newsletter on OR in health (report Peter Millard)

Professor Peter Millard has started a bimonthly newsletter Nosokinetics. Nosokinetics stands for the mathematics of flow through health and social care systems. Nosokinetics News seeks to bridge the gap between academe and practice in health and social care. In the first issue the reason for launching the newsletter is illustrated with some contributions on a whole system's approach to health care planning problems. The second issue contained amongst others an impression of papers presented at the Fourth IMA conference on Quantitative Modelling in the Management of Health Care, held at Salsford between 31st of March and 2nd of April 2004.

The newsletter is circulated bi-monthly, free of charge. To be added to the list, contact Peter Millard (phmillard@tiscali.co.uk).

New textbook on OR in health (report Sally Brailsford)

Kluwer Academic Publishers have recently announced the (long awaited!) publication of the **Handbook of Operations Research and Health Care: Methods and Applications**, edited by François Sainfort, Margaret L. Brandeau (the keynote speaker at ORAHS in Vienna) and William P. Pierskalla. The blurb says that "*The decision technologies, tools and theories of Operations Research and Management Sciences have long been applied to a wide range of issues and problems within health care. To date, however, there has been no single handbook that synthesizes the wide applicability of such techniques. The Handbook of Operations Research and Health Care now makes available to practitioners, students, and researchers a comprehensive handbook volume that will help them improve their ability to apply these decision technologies. In addition, the handbook will present new state-of-the-art techniques, explore new issues and challenges, and examine new avenues for research.*"

This very comprehensive book covers health care operations improvement, economic analysis, public policy, and clinical applications. Among its many other features, the book contains a chapter by Ruth Davies and me. Unfortunately, it is rather expensive (159 euros) so recommend it to your library! For further details, see <http://www.wkap.nl/prod/b/1-4020-7629-0>