

Newsletter ORAHS

May 2005



Introduction

Dear colleagues/friends! Please find here the spring 2005 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

July 11-15, 2005

IFORS triennial, Honolulu, Hawaii

Information: www.informs.org/conf/IFORS2005

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

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

September 13-15, 2005

OR Society Conference (OR47)

University College, Chester.

Organisers Health Stream: Chris Sherlaw-Johnson (University College London - c.sherlaw-johnson@ucl.ac.uk) and Gillian Mould (Stirling University - g.i.mould@stir.ac.uk).

April 19-21, 2006

Health and Social Care Modelling and Applications (HSCM 2006)

University of Adelaide, Adelaide.

Organizers: Peter Millard (p.millard@tiscali.co.uk) and Mark Mackay

July 2-5, 2006

EURO XXI Conference Iceland

Organizers Health Care Stream: Sally Brailsford (scb@soton.ac.uk) and Jan Vissers (vissers@bmg.eur.nl)

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, between 31 July - 5 August. In parallel with this, but starting a week earlier on July 24, we are also holding a EURO Summer Institute (ESI).

The University campus complex where we have the meeting



Plans for both conferences are coming on well. We currently have nearly 40 people registered for the full two weeks of the EURO Summer Institute – about half for the official ESI and 18 additional people. Most of the “extras” are PhD students and will be either presenting papers in ORAHS or giving poster sessions. We were successful in getting additional funding for this from the UK Science Research Council EPSRC. There will therefore be a significant younger element at ORAHS, which we are delighted about. There are about 50 people registered for ORAHS only, plus several “day cases” – including our own ex-Chairman David Clayden and his wife Val, who are looking forward to meeting many old friends. In total, there are 88 people from 21 different countries currently registered for ORAHS.

We have a full (not to say exhausting) programme of social events lined up, including a banquet at the largest football stadium in the Championship (the old Division 2, since sadly Southampton were relegated from the Premiership on the very last day of the season). There is also an innovation for ORAHS, a social event on the Tuesday evening involving beer, skittles and fish and chips. The weather forecast for the UK is apparently a heat wave summer with temperatures in the 30’s. I must say there is no evidence for this as I write in early June!

If you have visited the website (www.management.soton.ac.uk/orahs) recently you will have seen that there has been a change regarding the keynote speaker. This was due to political action on behalf of one of the UK lecturers' trades unions, the Association of University Teachers. In March the AUT voted to boycott two Israeli universities and as a result, Ed Kaplan withdrew from the conference for political reasons. Although the boycott has since been reversed, we had to find a replacement and we now have keynote talks from three very interesting and diverse UK practitioners for ORAHS, and Yasar Ozcan (editor of Health Care Management Science) for the ESI.

We are optimistic that the best ORAHS papers will be considered for a special issue of JORS, the Journal of the UK Operational Research Society. As soon as this is confirmed, it will be announced on the website. The ESI papers will be considered for a special issue of EJOR. Of course there will also be the usual Proceedings from the conference as well, so there are plenty of publication opportunities.

So, nearly everything has gone smoothly so far and we are really looking forward to seeing everyone in July. It is not too late to register by the way !!

EURO- info

EURO has an extensive website with information on EURO conferences and EURO Working Groups. The 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 attender of our meetings. For more information about EURO, see www.euro-online.org

A new version of the EURO 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 was 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>. The 2005 ESI and ORAHS conference website are running. We welcome ideas and suggestions for the main website.

Short communications

Proceedings ORAHS2004 meeting in Stockholm (report by Marten Lagergren)

The work on publishing the proceedings from the ORAHS 2004 meeting is moving steadily - though not very fast! At present 13 papers have been received and two more are promised. The received papers have been sent out for review among selected persons in the Working Group and answers are coming in. Referee reports have been forwarded to the authors with request to revise. However, all in all it will take at least another half year before we have the proceedings in print. The sooner, the better of course! See you in Southampton!

Informs conference New Orleans (report by John Blake)

The INFORMS conference is being held in New Orleans, Louisiana this year from November 13-16, 2005. (See www.informs.org for full conference details.) The Health Applications Section is organizing a full track of papers. If anyone would like to contribute a paper, could you please contact John Blake (john.blake@dal.ca). I am looking to put together a session on simulation and/or wait lists.

Income 2006 Saint Etienne (report by Xiaolan Lie)

Xiaolan Lie, our new French link member, is organizing a health care track on 'innovative engineering techniques in healthcare delivery' as part of INCOM2006 17-19 May in Saint Etienne (www.emse.fr/incom06). The topics include medical pathways, healthcare facility organization, health care resource allocation, health care system modelling and simulation, patient admission planning, etc. More information via Xiaolan Lie (xie@emse.fr).

EURO XXI Iceland (report by Jan Vissers)

Sally Brailsford and Jan Vissers have been invited by the programme committee for EURO XXI to organize the health care stream in EURO XXI, taking place July 2-5 in Iceland. A provisional stream of 12 papers has been defined with 4 session themes: health services planning, prevention and health promotion, hospital business planning models, resource allocation. Indication of interest was received from Asha Kapadia, Ruth Davies, Steve Gallivan, Carmen Belderrain, Roger Beech, Robert C. Lee, Korina Katsaliaki, Marten Lagergren, Sally Brailsford and Jan Vissers. For more information, contact Sally (scb@soton.ac.uk) or Jan (Vissers@bmg.eur.nl).

Special issue JORS (report by Sally Brailsford)

There will be a special issue of the Journal of the Operational Research Society on OR in Healthcare. This will be based on (but not limited to) the papers presented at the EURO Working Group conference ORAHS 2005, and will be jointly edited by Paul Harper and me. Further details and instructions will follow in due course, but the approximate deadlines are: Papers (submitted electronically to JORS in the usual way) by end September 2005 Papers to be accepted by end Jan 2006.

Aimed for publication around May 2006. We have been set a high standard by last year's special issue edited by Ruth Davies and David Bensley, and we look forward to receiving some excellent papers.