

Newsletter ORAHS

November 2005



Introduction

Dear colleagues/friends! Please find here the autumn 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

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)

July 23-29, 2006

ORAHS32 Wroclaw Poland

Organizer Marek Lubicz (m.lubicz@pwr.wroc.pl)

ORAHS 2005 Meeting in Southampton

(report by Sally Brailsford)



The 31st meeting of the EURO Working Group “OR applied to Health Services” took place in Southampton UK, 31st July till 5th of August 2005 at the University of Southampton. The theme of the meeting was “OR for Health Policy: Making Better Decisions”.

There is a long tradition of OR healthcare modelling at the University of Southampton, so an ORAHS meeting here was long overdue. A unique feature of ORAHS 31 was that it ran in parallel with the second week of a EURO Summer Institute (ESI) on “OR in Health”. 48 ORAHS delegates joined the 35 ESI participants who attended the first week. All these ESI participants are now members of ORAHS and the ESI papers are currently being considered for a special issue of EJOR. In total, there were 83 scientific participants, from 21 countries, and together with the accompanying persons this made a total of 99 (and an extra 11 people at the banquet) – surely a record.

Ed Kaplan from Yale had initially agreed to be a keynote speaker, but withdrew for political reasons and Yasar Ozcan from Virginia Commonwealth University, USA, kindly agreed to step in at short notice. The other speakers in week 1, the ESI week, were all ORAHS stalwarts and international experts in their area:

- Monday: Introduction to OR Models for Health: Yasar Ozcan
- Tuesday: Analytical and Mathematical Models: Steve Gallivan
- Wednesday: Simulation Modelling: Ruth Davies
- Thursday: Optimisation: Mike Carter
- Friday: Operations Management: Jan Vissers

Each day started with a tutorial, and the keynote speaker then led the subsequent discussions and gave advice on improving the submitted papers. The other participants presented shorter papers in Week 2 as part of the main ORAHS meeting, but were able to benefit from the detailed in-depth discussion of the ESI papers.

The keynote speakers in week 2 were Geoff Royston (Head of OR in the UK Department of Health), David Paynton (chair of the Southampton City Primary Care Trust) and Simon Dodds, a vascular consultant.

Social events during ORAHS week included a second welcome party, a Civic Reception at the Art Gallery attended by the Mayor of Southampton, followed by an Indian dinner organised by Arjan Shahani, a skittles evening in the New Forest, and the conference banquet at St Mary’s Football Stadium (home of the Saints, who had sadly just been relegated from the Premiership and who played their first home game of the new season two days after the banquet). The day trip on Wednesday included a visit to Winchester hospital, a visit to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to see HMS Victory and the Mary Rose, and dinner at a Sussex pub organised by Ruth Davies.

Below you will find a small sample of the many pictures taken at ORAHS31. It gives you the right impression that ORAHS-meetings are not only enjoyable working, but also serious fun!



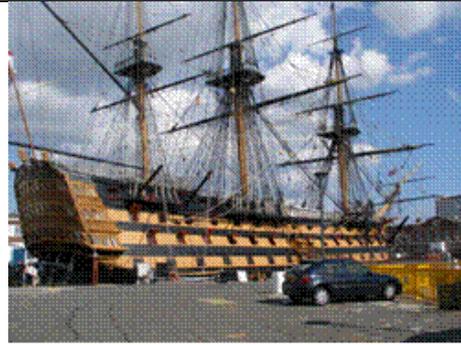
Reception at the Art Gallery



Dinner at an Indian restaurant



Enjoying the sun



HMS Victory



Caption competition!



At the banquet



Group photo



See you next year in Poland!

A total 41 scientific papers were presented in the second week. Some of these have been submitted for a Special Issue of the Journal of the OR Society which Sally and Paul are

currently editing (sorry, the deadline for submissions has passed). Others have been submitted for the Proceedings of ORAHS, which will appear in due course. We are also busy editing the special issue of the European Journal of OR which is the normal output from an ESI. So many thanks to all of you who have kindly agreed to referee papers for all these publications.

*And Finally....*The whole fortnight was totally exhausting but the most tremendous fun. I would like to thank all the organizing committee, in particular Paul Harper, whose many talents include the ability to carry large numbers of duvets up and down several flights of stairs (not part of the academic job description!) and Charlotte Rugby from the School of Management, whose organizational skills and hard work behind the scenes helped make the two week marathon go amazingly smoothly. Many thanks also go to Sigrid Shahani, who organised and coordinated the Accompanying Persons programme. The strong contingent of Southampton health OR PhD students also provided much valuable help with the social events and countless other odd jobs – many thanks to all of you.

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 is about to be 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). 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 ORAHS2004 meeting in Stockholm (report by Marten Lagergren)

The proceedings of the 30th meeting of the Group, which took place in Stockholm in 2004, are going to be published shortly. In total 14 papers will be included. Marten reports that the final editing work is well underway and that he plans to send out the book as a Christmas gift.

Health Operations Management textbook (report by Jan Vissers)

The book 'Health Operations Management', edited by Jan Vissers and Roger Beech, was published this summer. It appeared in the Routledge Series on Health Management (ISBN 0-415-32396-7). The focus of the book is on hospital process and resource management. It consists of an introductory part with an explicit OM focus and a number of cases studies covering different aspects of planning issues within a hospital setting, based on published articles in OR/MS journals. Martin Utley & Steve Gallivan, Paul Forte & Tom Bowen and Dave Worthington have contributed chapters on case studies. The book will be used for teaching purposes in the Master Health Care Management at the institute of Health Policy and Management of Erasmus University Medical Centre in Rotterdam.

LNMB seminar on 'Operations Research and Health Care' (report by Erwin Hans)

On Thursday 19th of January 2006 there is a one-day seminar on 'Operations Research and Health Care' organized by LNMB (Dutch Network on Mathematics of Operations Research). Michael Carter is one of the speakers. For more information <http://www.lnmb.nl/conferences/lunteren2006/index.html> or Erwin Hans (e.w.hans@bbt.utwente.nl)

INFORMS Hong Kong – Health Application Stream (report by Marion Rauner)

Yasar Ozcan invited Marion Rauner to organize a session in the Health Application Stream at the INFORMS Hong Kong Conference (<http://www.informs.org/Conf/Hongkong06/>). For the 2006 conference, all sessions and abstracts will be submitted online using the INFORMS abstract processing system by January 15, 2006. Marion invites all members to present a paper a session organized by Marion. This would be a good opportunity for sharing research ideas and for meeting colleagues in the field of health care modelling. For more information please contact: marion.rauner@univie.ac.at

AG-Workshop 2006 May Graz (report by Marion Rauner)

From 18-19 May 2006 the German OR Working Group "Optimization of Biosystems" and the Austrian OR Society and its Working Groups organize a joint workshop 'Challenges in the Optimization of Health and Biosystems' at Karl-Franzens-University Graz. The topics of the workshop include: Health and the Lifesciences, Optimization of Biosystems, Auctioning and Emission Trading Markets, Allocation Rules and Bargaining Procedures, Experimental Studies and Forecasting. Invited speakers from the Earth Institute of the Columbia University New York and Siemens (Munich) will attend the workshop. The organizers are Prof. Dr. Ulrike Leopold-Wildburger (Karl-Franzens-University Graz), Prof. Dr. Margit Sommersguter-Reichmann (Karl-Franzens-University Graz), Prof. Dr. Marion Rauner (University Vienna), Dr. Doris Behrens (University Klagenfurt) and Prof. Dr. Stefan Pickl (University of the Armed Forces Munich). Registration and Abstract (1 page - deadline mid-March) to stefan.pickl@unibw.de (Tel. +89 6004 2400). Presentations of members of the ORAHS Working Group are very welcome!

Special Issue Health OR Central European Journal of OR (report by Marion Rauner)

We are glad to announce that the special issue on "Quantitative Decision Support for Health Services" of the Central European Journal of Operations Research (edited by Marion Rauner, Doris Behrens, and Claudia Wild) has just been published (2005: Vol. 13, No. 4). Three papers were authored by members of ORAHS.

Balance of Care: updated website (report by Paul Forte)

Paul Forte would like to point at the updated website of the Balance of Care Group (www.balanceofcare.com) which contains some free downloads of materials.