

Newsletter ORAHS

May 2008



Introduction

Dear colleagues/friends! Please find here the Spring 2008 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 (scb@soton.ac.uk). In particular we would welcome short contributions from PhD students on their research: we're going to have a feature slot for this in future Newsletters.

Agenda of coming meetings

June 15 - 18, 2008

European Operations Management Association EurOMA 2008, Groningen The Netherlands
Health care track organizers: Urban Wemmerlov (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>

August 23 – 26, 2008

IEEE CASE 2008, Washington DC, USA
Health Care Delivery Engineering track organizers: Xiaolan Xie (xie@emse.fr) and Zhibin Jiang (zbjiang@sjtu.edu.cn)

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)

After the historically high participation of ORAHS'2007 in Saint Etienne, four post-conference publications are in progress.

First, the ORAHS'2007 post-conference proceedings has attracted 49 contributions addressing almost all current research areas of OR in health care. All these contributions have been reviewed by the ORAHS'2007 International Program Committee. Review reports have been sent to authors for preparation of their final papers. The proceedings is expected to be printed with a ISBN number before the Toronto meeting.

Three special issues are in process.

The AOR special volume (Annals of Operations Research) edited by Xiaolan Xie, Steve Gallivan, Alain Guinet and Marion Rauner has attracted 30 papers. The first review round is almost finished. Review reports have been sent to authors.

The HCMS special issue (Health Care Management Science) edited by Frank Dexter, Eric Marcon, and Xiaolan Xie has attracted 20 submissions. The first review round is almost finished. Review reports have been sent to authors.

The IJHISI special issue (International Journal of Health Information Systems and Informatics) edited by Frédérique Laforest and Paul Harper is almost finished with 5 papers accepted.

ORAHS 2008 (report by John Blake, john.blake@dal.ca)

The 34th annual ORAHS meeting is fast approaching. This year's conference is being held in Toronto, Ontario (Canada) from July 28 - August 1, 2008. The theme for this year is *International Perspectives on Operations Research and Health Care*. The meeting will be held at the University of Toronto's Bahen Centre for Information Technology at 40 St. George Street. As of June 10, 2008 we already have more than 100 registered attendees.

We anticipate a full slate of scientific presentations (150+) from researchers based in North America, Europe, and indeed around the globe. Scheduled plenary speakers include Bill Pierskalla (UCLA), Jeff Griffiths (Cardiff), Michael Rachlis (Toronto) and Ben Chan (Ontario Health Quality Council). A slate of hospital tours is scheduled for Tuesday, July 29.

In addition to scientific presentations, we have planned a stimulating social program. Look for a welcoming reception on Sunday, July 27th at the Duke of York (one of Toronto's best English pubs), a wine and cheese reception on Monday night at the Fields Institute of Mathematics, and a banquet at the University's Faculty Club on Thursday the 31st of July.

In keeping with ORAHS tradition, we plan a "field trip" to the Niagara region on Wednesday, July 30th. Our itinerary includes a trip to Niagara Falls (where participants can ride the "Maid of the Mist"), a wine tasting, and BBQ. It should be a fun and informative trip.

For students and newly minted PhD's we are planning to revive the ORAHS PhD workshop. The workshop will take place on July 24/25, 2008 as a precursor to the annual meeting. The

goal is to provide an intimate forum for current and recently graduated PhD students to showcase and discuss their research. The workshop will be composed of interactive tutorials and seminars focusing on operational research and healthcare topics.

Toronto is an interesting, cosmopolitan city with a wide variety of things to do and see. Dining in Toronto is wonderful and diverse. There are sporting events, museums, art galleries, old fortifications, and public gardens to see. Transportation links are excellent, and getting around the city is easy. It is even possible to find the occasional outdoor patio serving nice cool beverages. We look forward to seeing everyone in July.

For more information, please see our website (www.oraht2008.com) or contact Mike Carter (carter@mie.utoronto.ca) or John Blake (john.blake@dal.ca).

NB: We are still seeking candidates who are capable of and interested in conducting an interactive tutorial for the PhD workshops. Tutorial topics can range from the discussion of a research question to the presentation of a quantitative/software tool useful to the researchers in this field. If you are interested in holding a session, or have any further questions, please contact Dr. Dionne Aleman at aleman@mie.utoronto.ca

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, Lorient 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 website can be found at <http://www.management.soton.ac.uk/oraht/>. I'm afraid I have spotted that there are still some features which remain to be updated, and I'm sorry I have been a bit remiss in doing this. For instance the link to St Etienne has disappeared! (sorry Xiolan) – I will get this sorted asap. Meanwhile, we welcome ideas and suggestions for the website.

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 still not sufficient papers to allow for a publication. If the situation will not change he thinks the only alternative is to resolve to an electronic version. So anyone still with a paper underway for Marek, please contact him.

Healthcare stream OR 50 UK (report by Christos Vasilakis)

This year the UK OR Society's Conference returns to the historic City of York. The conference will be held at the University of York's beautiful lakeside campus from 9 – 11 September, 2008. Not only this is the Golden Anniversary conference, but also two long-standing ORAHS members were chosen to co-chair: Sally Brailsford and Paul Harper. All of us who participated in ORAHS2005 in Southampton can testify to the organisation, inspiration and fun Sally and Paul will bring to the event. Another ORAHS member, Christos Vasilakis, is organising the healthcare stream.

The healthcare stream welcomes talks on the application of operational research methods to health care. We are particularly interested in studies that developed and applied practical methods for assisting with real life problems faced by health professionals and managers. So far there are 12 talks submitted to the healthcare stream. You can join in by simply submitting the abstract of your talk and then registering through the OR Society's website (www.theorsociety.org.uk)

Postscript (report by Sally Brailsford)

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored me in the Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research UK. Here is the start of the race, by St Paul's Cathedral. I raised over £500, ... and I did make it to the end, in rather better shape than my daughter Rachel!



Other news from the UK ... Congratulations to Martin Utley who has just become a dad for the second time: baby Arthur was born on May 19, a brother for Iris. Ruth Davies is directing a very interesting research project into the use of Lean in healthcare, funded by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. MASHnet held a very successful event in London on April 23, organised by Martin Pitt and very well attended.

Finally, a big thank you to Marion Rauner for the Austria EURO 2008 football shirt. In view of England's pathetic failure to qualify, I am now an avid supporter of Austria and have been wearing the shirt during every Austria match – not that it has brought them much luck so far☺