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Foreword

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Foreword

This is the inaugural volume of the *Tutorials in Operations Research*, a book series of INFORMS, which I founded with much help and support from Frederic H. Murphy, Vice President of Publications. Building on the tutorials book I edited from the 2004 INFORMS meeting in Denver (published by Springer), we made this an annual series published by INFORMS. J. Cole Smith is our first Volume Editor, serving also as the Tutorials Chair for the 2005 INFORMS meeting. In forming policies and procedures, I had help from my Advisory Board: Erhan Erkut, J. Cole Smith, and David L. Woodruff.

Cole has done a great job as editor, recruiting a diverse set of tutorials for the INFORMS meeting and publishing some of those here. Each author is to be congratulated, and Cole has my gratitude for putting forth the extra work to produce this volume.

Having worked in academia, government, and industry (large and small), I have found that operations research is widely used but not so widely recognized. This "identity crisis" needs our attention because we, in the OR/MS profession, bring highly developed problem-solving skills to any table. Our strengths are modeling and analysis with concomitant strength in computation, both numerical and symbolic, including visualization. Our roots are in team efforts, and OR has been definitionally multidisciplinary. Our promise is to solve problems, and we draw upon many areas of mathematics, computer science, and economics to do our job well. In addition, we learn what is necessary for an application at hand, be it in production, finance, engineering, or science. OR is the exemplar of technology transfer.

In this volume, Cole has chosen tutorials that will help others learn areas of OR. His preface puts them into perspective, but it is worth emphasizing them. Note the mix of application-driven ("Network Models in Railroad Planning and Scheduling" and "Demand Selection and Assignment Problems in Supply Chain Planning") and method-driven ("Branch and Tree Decomposition Techniques for Discrete Optimization" and "Stochastic Programming: Optimization When Uncertainty Matters"), of traditional ("An Introduction to Revenue Management") and new ("Operations Research in Experimental Psychology"), of conceptual ("Decision Analysis = Decision Engineering") and computational ("CBC User Guide"), of classroom education ("Active Learning for Quantitative Courses") and field education ("Analyzing the Vulnerability of Critical Infrastructure to Attack and Planning Defenses"). I expect this volume to be very popular indeed.

Again, I thank Cole for all of his hard work and initiative and Fred Murphy for having the vision to produce this series.

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