



## INFORMS TutORials in Operations Research

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:  
<http://pubsonline.informs.org>

### Foreword

To cite this entry: Foreword. *In* INFORMS TutORials in Operations Research. Published online: 14 Oct 2014; v-vi.  
<https://doi.org/10.1287/educ.1100.foreword>

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## Foreword

Tutorials introduce people to fields about which they previously knew little. They stimulate people to examine problems they would not otherwise consider. They help point people to the state of the art and to important unsolved problems. It is no surprise that tutorials are one of the major activities at the INFORMS Annual Meetings.

This volume is the seventh in the series to be published by INFORMS. Earlier this year, the INFORMS Board of Directors approved distributing the tutorials electronically as well as in hard copy. Specifically, people who register for the 2010 INFORMS Annual Meeting are being given access to TUTORIALS prior to the meeting. All members will soon be able to access TUTORIALS from INFORMS PubsOnLine. The printed TUTORIALS books from this and previous years are available for a small fee.

### Brief History of TUTORIALS

Although the attendance at tutorial sessions is among the largest of all sessions—numbers around 200 in a single session are common—until 2004 their important content was lost to the many INFORMS members who could not attend either the tutorial sessions or the annual meeting itself. Clearly, INFORMS was under-using one of its treasures.

When Harvey Greenberg was appointed the tutorials chair for the Denver National Meeting he recognized the problem that tutorials were only available for listening to those who attended them and no permanent record existed. The result was a lack of institutional memory. He decided to do something about it. He arranged for a commercial publisher, obtained written versions of nine of the presentations, and edited the volume. Unfortunately, the commercial publication was extremely expensive and resulted in a financial loss for the publisher. In 2005, Frederick H. Murphy, then Vice President, Publications, of INFORMS, working closely with Harvey, convinced the INFORMS Board of Directors to bring the *Tutorials in Operations Research* series under the umbrella of our society. Harvey was appointed series editor and initiated the policy that the Tutorials chair also serve as the volume editor. As the result of a suggestion by Richard C. Larson, 2005 President of INFORMS, a CD version of the volume was also created starting in 2006. As indicated above, starting with the 2010 volume, the CD version is discontinued.

In mid-2005, Harvey Greenberg, nearing retirement, asked to relinquish the series editorship. Paul Gray was appointed to replace him.

### This Year's Volume

This year's volume editor is John J. Hasenbein, associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin, who is the tutorials chair for the Austin meeting. He assembled tutorials for this volume that, as in previous years, cover a broad range of fields within operations research. As described in Hasenbein's preface, which follows next, the tutorials discuss risks from infectious diseases and nuclear reactors, methods for dealing with risk through decision analysis, finding optimization under uncertainty both quantitatively and through simulation, and competitive bidding strategies. It is a rich collection of ideas that should spur research in the operations research community.

The authors come from major universities (Case Western Reserve University; Carnegie Mellon University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Naval Postgraduate School;

Northwestern University; Princeton University; Saint Mary's College of California; University of California, Berkeley; University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign; University of Michigan; University of Southern California; University Texas at Austin) and from industry (South Texas Project Electric Generating Station).

On behalf of the INFORMS membership, I thank the volume editor for creating this year's exciting tutorial program and doing the enormous amount of work required to create this volume. INFORMS is also indebted to each of the authors who contributed the 11 chapters.

The tutorial series benefits from the work of its Advisory Committee, consisting of Harvey J. Greenberg (University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, emeritus), Frederick S. Hillier (Stanford University, emeritus), Mohammad R. Oskoorouchi (California State University, San Marcos), S. Raghavan (University of Maryland), and J. Cole Smith (University of Florida). Finally, an important thank you to Patricia Shaffer (Director of Publications), Miranda Walker (Manager of Publications), and the members of the publications staff at the INFORMS office for the physical preparation of this volume and its publication in both print and electronic form in a timely manner.

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