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Foreword

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Foreword

The TutORials track at INFORMS is designed to provide experts in the operations research (OR) and management science (MS) fields a dedicated and prestigious venue in which to introduce a topic of interest to the community. These sessions once served to recap more mature fields of research, but now tend to focus more on introducing emerging research and practical topics. INFORMS conference participants are routinely drawn to these talks to learn about new challenges facing the community, and to catch up on new OR/MS theory and methods. The TutORials track continues to flourish in this role.

This year's volume editors are Dr. Jiming Peng, associate professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Houston, and Dr. Rajan Batta, SUNY Distinguished Professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University at Buffalo. The volume editors carefully recruited several of our field's elite researchers to author book chapters for the TutORials series. The perspectives in this book chapter are balanced between industry and academic researchers, and include important new developments in theory, methods, and application.

As this is the final volume produced with me as series editor-in-chief, I am excited to look ahead to future iterations of this important series. At the same time, it is worth looking back on history of the series. As the 2004 INFORMS tutorials chair, Dr. Harvey Greenberg recognized in his planning that tutorial sessions are among the most coveted slots in the Annual Meeting program, and many of our field's preeminent leaders agree to present at these sessions. Still, with the vast number of parallel tracks at INFORMS—and even more now in 2017 than in 2004—there are inevitable conflicts for participants' time. Harvey's goal was to create a publication outlet that would archive this valuable tutorial material, augment the material presented in the seminars, and serve as a reference to those outside our field wondering how OR/MS can benefit their disciplines. His work led to the INFORMS book series itself (after his inaugural volume was published by Springer in 2004), for which he was the first series editor, and I the first volume editor. Beginning in 2006, Dr. Paul Gray served as the series editor, and steadily improved the series by instituting peer reviews for the chapters, working to electronically archive past chapters, and making the series even more accessible than ever by transitioning to the INFORMS PubsOnLine system.

In 2011, Paul stepped down in the role that he so capably served for six years, and helped me tremendously in getting started as the third TutORials series editor in 2012. Shortly after this transition, Paul passed away in May of 2012, leaving behind a tremendous legacy as an educator, researcher, and leader of our field. It is impossible to imagine this series having the magnitude of impact it has had without Paul. In addition to being remarkably productive and innovative, Paul demonstrated through his stewardship of this series an excellent capacity for leadership. Paul consistently met the difficult challenges of series editor with effectiveness, cheer, and grace.

For this year's tutorials track, the volume editors successfully recruited twelve tutorial chapters, and we are grateful for the significant amount of time invested by each of the tutorial presenters and authors. On behalf of the INFORMS community, I sincerely thank Drs. Peng and Batta for crafting this year's exciting tutorial program, and for doing the enormous amount of work required to create this volume.

Mr. Cho Chee Cheung served as production coordinator for this volume. His dedication and patience was invaluable in ensuring that this volume was completed on time and ready

for the conference. He carefully examined the volume's contents and helped us with all aspects of publication, and we are fortunate to work with someone so talented and effective. I also genuinely thank the members of the publications staff at INFORMS for the physical preparation of this volume, and for helping us meet the various deadlines associated with this production.

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