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The First *M&SOM* Practice-Based Research Competition

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The *Manufacturing and Service Operations Management* (*M&SOM*) Practice-Based Research Competition was initiated following an *M&SOM* journal board meeting during the 2016 Annual MSOM Conference held in Toronto. It is a biannual paper competition organized by the *M&SOM* journal with support from the MSOM Society. Its objectives are to motivate, help develop, reward, and highlight high-quality operations management (OM) research papers with a high potential or realized impact on practice, and to publish these papers in *M&SOM*.

Many individuals helped develop and launch this competition, most notably Chris Tang (UCLA), Brian Tomlin (Dartmouth), Terry Taylor (Berkeley), and myself. I was honored to chair this first edition of the competition, which involved an Academic Committee composed of John Birge (University of Chicago), Feryal Erhun (Cambridge University), Marcelo Olivares (University of Chile), Alan Sheller-Wolf (Carnegie-Mellon University), and Geert-Jan van Houtum (Eindhoven University of Technology). These individuals led as guest Associate Editors a review process consistent with *M&SOM*'s practice and were supported in this role by many deserving referees. In addition, they identified six paper finalists, which were further evaluated by an Industry Judge Panel composed of Stefan Biller (General Electric), Hugo Mora (Nike), and Salal Humair (Amazon). The evaluation criteria considered by the Academic Committee, the referees who supported them, and the Industry Judge Panel were the following:

- extent and validity of the realized or potential practical impact claimed;
- academic contributions;
- quality of exposition, including clarity of contributions;

- potential for academic impact and future related work.

Following the public presentations of all finalist papers at the annual 2017 MSOM Conference at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, this competition culminates with the publication in this issue of all of the papers selected as prize winners or finalists, as follows:

First-Prize Winners

Hongmin Li, Scott Webster, Nicholas Mason, and Karl Kempf, "Product-line Pricing Under Discrete Mixed Multinomial Logit Demand"

Turgay Ayer, Can Zhang, Chenxi Zeng, Chelsea C. White III, and V. Roshan Joseph, "Analysis and Improvement of Blood Collection Operations"

Honorable Mention

Pavithra Harsha, Shivaram Subramanian, and Joline Uichanco, "Dynamic Pricing of Omnichannel Inventories"

Finalists

Kejia Hu, Jason Acimovic, Francisco Erize, Douglas J. Thomas, and Jan A. Van Mieghem, "Forecasting New Product Life Cycle Curves: Practical Approach and Empirical Analysis"

Chloe Kim Glaeser, Marshall Fisher, and Xuanming Su, "Optimal Retail Location: Empirical Methodology and Application to Practice"

Eva D. Regnier and Cameron A. MacKenzie, "The Hurricane Decision Simulator: A Tool for Marine Forces in New Orleans to Practice Operations Management in Advance of a Hurricane"