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Awi Federgruen ("Progressive Interval Heuristics for Multi-Item Capacitated Lot-Sizing Problems") is the Charles E. Exley Professor of Management and Chair of the Decision, Risk and Operations Division of the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University. His general interests include the analysis and modeling of centralized and decentralized supply chains and service systems. The paper in this issue is part of the Ph.D. dissertation completed by J. Meissner under A. Federgruen's supervision. It is also part of an ongoing project M. Tzur has been conducting with A. Federgruen and others to design efficient algorithms, heuristics with provable performance guarantees and so-called forecast horizon detection schemes for general dynamic lot-sizing problems.

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Michael C. Fu ("A Model Reference Adaptive Search Method for Global Optimization") is Ralph J. Tyser Professor of Management Science in the Robert H. Smith School of Business, with a joint appointment in the Institute for Systems Research, at the University of Maryland. His research interests include simulation and applied probability modeling, particularly with applications towards supply chain management and financial engineering. His recent research has focused on computational approaches for solving Markov decision processes and on randomized optimization algorithms, and this work is from that research stream.

Guillermo Gallego ("Bounds, Heuristics, and Approximations for Distribution Systems") is a professor of industrial engineering and operations research at Columbia University. He has a long-term interest in multiechelon inventory and production systems with an emphasis on understanding system performance and the developments of bounds and heuristics.

Ayalvadi Ganesh ("Congestion Pricing and Noncooperative Games in Communication Networks") is a researcher at Microsoft Research, Cambridge, UK. His research interests include queueing theory, large deviations, and random graphs, and their application to communication networks. He is coauthor, with Neil O'Connell and Damon Wischik, of *Big Queues* (Springer, 2004).

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J. N. Hooker ("Planning and Scheduling by Logic-Based Benders Decomposition") is professor of operations research and Holleran Professor of Business Ethics and Social Responsibility at the Tepper School of Business,

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Jiaqiao Hu ("A Model Reference Adaptive Search Method for Global Optimization") is an assistant professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His research interests include Markov decision processes, computational learning theory, and various simulation-based optimization techniques. This work was carried out while he was a Ph.D. student in the Institute for Systems Research at the University of Maryland.

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Panos Kouvelis ("On the Integration of Production and Financial Hedging Decisions in Global Markets") is the Emerson Distinguished Professor of Operations and Manufacturing Management at the John M. Olin School of Business, Washington University in Saint Louis. He has been active in global supply chain management research in the last 15 years of his career. A main thrust of his recent research agenda has been investigating the role of operational hedging and integrated risk management approaches in dealing with global supply chain risks.

Koenraad Laevens ("Congestion Pricing and Noncooperative Games in Communication Networks") is a researcher at Ghent University, Belgium. His research interests include queueing theory and stochastic modeling, with focus on the performance evaluation of telecommunications systems.

Richard C. Larson ("Simple Models of Influenza Progression Within a Heterogeneous Population") is the Mitsui Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Engineering Systems Division and Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. He recalls being infected with the Hong Kong flu in 1968, a life-memorable experience. Many years later, in the early part of this century a colleague directed him to the book, *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History*, by John M. Barry. He was shocked to learn that more Americans died in a few months from this flu than in all the wars of the twentieth century. He believes that this is a problem area that may benefit from an operations research approach. The current paper represents the beginning of what he hopes will be a multiyear, multidisciplinary, team-oriented research project.

Steven I. Marcus ("A Model Reference Adaptive Search Method for Global Optimization") is a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Institute for Systems Research at the University of Maryland. His research interests lie in the areas of systems and control, analysis and control of stochastic systems, Markov decision processes, simulation-based optimization, stochastic and adaptive control, and discrete event systems, with applications in planning, manufacturing, and communication networks.

Joern Meissner ("Progressive Interval Heuristics for Multi-Item Capacitated Lot-Sizing Problems") is a lecturer in the Management Science Department of the Lancaster University Management School in England. His interests include supply chain management, operations strategy and revenue management. The paper in this issue is part of the Ph.D. dissertation "Multi-Item Supply Chain and Revenue Management Problems," which he wrote under the supervision of A. Federgruen and C. Maglaras of the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University.

Özalp Özer ("Bounds, Heuristics, and Approximations for Distribution Systems") is an assistant professor of management science and engineering at Stanford University. This paper represents his interest in multiechelon inventory systems and developing decision tools that are of practical use for real supply chains. He had considerable fun working on this paper.

Erica L. Plambeck ("Note: A Separation Principle for a Class of Assemble-to-Order Systems with Expediting") is an associate professor of operations, information, and technology at Stanford Graduate School of Business. This is one in a series of papers on assemble-to-order manufacturing, originally motivated by a consulting project with Sun Microsystems.

Ioana Popescu ("Dynamic Pricing Strategies with Reference Effects") is associate professor of decision sciences at INSEAD. This paper is part of a larger body of work that she conducts in the area of pricing and revenue optimization. It was motivated by her interest in incorporating

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Rivi Sandhu ("Integrated Airline Fleeting and Crew-Pairing Decisions") is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, Urbana, Illinois. The paper is part of an M.S. dissertation under the direction of D. Klabjan.

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Amy R. Ward ("Note: A Separation Principle for a Class of Assemble-to-Order Systems with Expediting") is an assistant professor in information and operations management at the Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California. Her research focuses on the performance evaluation and control of stochastic networks.

Ward Whitt ("Two-Moment Approximations for Maxima") completed his Ph.D. from the School of OR and IE at Cornell University in 1969. In 2002 he returned to academia in the IEOR Department at Columbia University after spending 25 years in research at AT&T. The current paper stems from a research project with C. Crow and D. Goldberg begun in 2003 to study congestion associated with inspecting shipping containers. An important source of inspiration was the paper, "Preventing the Importation of Illicit Nuclear Materials in Shipping Containers," by L. M. Wein, A. H. Wilkins, M. Baveja, and S. E. Flynn in *Risk Analysis* **26** (2006). The main outcome of this research project was simulation software to evaluate the congestion associated with a two-stage inspection scheme. The paper in this issue is part of an effort to develop supporting analytical approximations.

Yaozhong Wu ("Dynamic Pricing Strategies with Reference Effects") is a Ph.D. candidate in technology and operations management at INSEAD. His research interests include modeling behavioral issues in operations management, with an emphasis on social interactions affecting performance.

Paul Zipkin ("Bounds, Heuristics, and Approximations for Distribution Systems") is the R. J. Reynolds Professor of Business at the Fuqua School of Business, Duke University. This paper continues his long-standing interest in understanding inventory systems and supply chains.