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Award Citation

THE COUNCIL OF THE HEALTH APPLICATIONS Section of ORSA voted to award a \$500 cash prize to the author(s) of the best paper included in this special issue. A prize award committee was selected by the editors of the issue and, following final paper selection, the committee reviewed each paper.

The criteria for selection of the best paper embodied in part the stated purposes of the Health Applications Section of ORSA. Among these are to advance health operations research through the useful applications of operations research to problems of the health-care system and the development and improvement of relevant methods and techniques of operations research. The award committee focused its evaluation on the degree to which these stated objectives were met.

In addition, however, the Health Applications Section has recently been concerned with problems of demonstrated applicability of operations research in health as reflected by the testing and/or implementation of modeling approaches. Several papers and internally sponsored symposia have attempted to explore the reasons that may be underlying the apparent paucity of implemented results in the health industry. Thus, the committee attempted to relate the concept of best paper to the issue of implementation of results.

A fourth dimension of evaluation was related to the development and improvement of measurement models and techniques incorporated in the solution of health systems problems. Those papers that structured or adapted measurement models to reflect closely parameters of management decision making in a health-care setting were viewed as contributing most to the objectives of the Health Applications Section.

Finally, this is a compendium of scholarly papers. The prize committee was concerned with the extent to which content and presentation reflected the author's in-depth understanding of his technical and application areas as well as his desire to communicate effectively with readers who may not be nearly as well versed in his topic as he.

The prize committee, considering all of the above, has selected the paper by Barnett R. Parker and V. Srinivasan entitled "A Consumer Preference Approach to the Planning of Rural Primary Health-Care Facilities" as

the recipient of the best paper award. Their efforts, as well as the efforts of all authors in the special issue, are to be commended.

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