

Foreword

John D. C. Little has long told us that the primary role of a professional society is to disseminate knowledge. Tutorials are the lifeblood of our professional society. They help introduce people to fields about which they previously knew little. They stimulate people to examine problems they would not otherwise have considered. They help point people to the state of the art and important unsolved problems. It is no surprise that tutorials are one of the major activities at the INFORMS annual meetings.

Each year, about 15 tutorials are presented at the INFORMS meeting. Although the attendance at tutorial sessions is among the largest of all sessions—numbers around 200 are common—until two years ago, their important content was lost to the many INFORMS members who could not attend the tutorial sessions or the annual meeting itself. Clearly, INFORMS was underusing one of its treasures.

In 2003, Harvey Greenberg of the University of Colorado at Denver (founding editor of the *INFORMS Journal on Computing* and well-known for his many contributions to OR scholarship and professional service) was appointed the Tutorials Chair for the Denver meeting. He recognized the problem of a lack of institutional memory about tutorials and decided to do something. He organized the Tutorials in Operations Research series of books. His idea was that a selection of the tutorials offered at the annual meeting would be prepared as chapters in an edited volume widely available through individual and library purchase. To ensure its circulation, the book would be available at the INFORMS annual fall meeting.

Harvey edited the *TutORials* book for the Denver INFORMS meeting in 2004, which was published by Springer. In 2005, Frederick H. Murphy (then Vice President of Publications for INFORMS), working closely with Harvey, convinced the INFORMS Board of Directors to bring the annual *TutORials* volume under the umbrella of our society. Harvey was appointed Series Editor. He, in turn, asked J. Cole Smith of the University of Florida and Tutorials Chair of the San Francisco annual meeting to serve as editor of the 2005 volume, the first to be published by INFORMS. In doing so, Harvey initiated the policy that the invited 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 made available. In mid-2005, Harvey Greenberg asked to relinquish the series editorship. I was appointed to replace him.

This year, the Pittsburgh meeting Chair, Michael Trick, appointed three Tutorials Co-Chairs—Michael P. Johnson and Nicola Secomandi of Carnegie Mellon University, and Bryan Norman of the University of Pittsburgh—who serve as coeditors of this volume. They have assembled nine tutorials for this volume that, as in previous years, cover a broad range of fields within OR. These tutorials include the following.

- Deterministic mathematical programming
- Mathematical programming under uncertainty
- Dynamic programming
- OR practice
- Production and inventory management
- Game theory applied to supply chain interactions
- Supply chain networks

The authors are a truly diverse, international group that comes from major universities including Cornell, Eindhoven (The Netherlands), Kent (United Kingdom), Lehigh,

Massachusetts (Boston), Michigan, MIT, Northwestern, Rutgers, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

On behalf of the INFORMS membership. I thank the three coeditors for their vision in creating this year's tutorial series and doing the enormous amount of work required to create this volume. INFORMS is also indebted to the authors who contributed the nine chapters.

The TutORials series also benefits from the work of its Advisory Committee, consisting of Erhan Erkut (Bilkent University, Turkey), Harvey J. Greenberg (University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center), Frederick S. Hillier (Stanford University), J. Cole Smith (University of Florida), and David Woodruff (University of California, Davis)

Finally, an important thank you to Molly O'Donnell (Senior Production Editor), Patricia Shaffer (Director of Publications), and the members of the publications staff at the INFORMS office for the physical preparation of this volume and its publication in a timely manner.

PAUL GRAY
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