



CORS • SCRO

Canadian Operational Research Society

Société canadienne de recherche opérationnelle

The
Bulletin

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IN THIS ISSUE

Dear CORS members,

In this issue, we thank Samira and the CORS 2023/24 council for a successful year. We welcome the incoming president, Anjali, and many new council members for the upcoming year. Anjali outlines several exciting initiatives for her term in her incoming president's message.

The 2024 conference in London, Ontario was a wonderful event, well executed by the organizers and all those who presented. This year seemed particularly full of awards and this issue includes all the details and photos of the winners. Congratulations to everyone who competed and placed in the competitions.

Lastly, our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Atlantic section were also busy with micro events and other news. You'll find the details after the many pages of conference coverage!

Cheers,

Andrea

CORS Council

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President
Councillors

Anjali Awasthi
Marco Bijvank
Majid Taghavi
Kent Kostuk
Samira Rahimi
Masoud Chitsaz (23–25)
Saied Samiedaluie (23–25)
Ana María Anaya-Arenas (24–26)
Eman Almehdawe (24–26)
Danielle Ripsman
Nadia Lahrichi, Joe Naoum-Sawaya

Student Councillor
Standing Committee Chairs

Standing Committees

Membership
Education & Student Affairs

Saied Samiedaluie
Nadia Lahrichi

Program

Marco Bijvank, Anjali Awasthi, Fredrik Odegaard, Borzou Rostami, Kent Kostuk
Ana María Anaya-Arenas, Eman Almehdawe, Saied Samiedaluie
Joe Naoum-Sawaya, Andrea Friars, Ana María Anaya-Arenas

Public Relations

Publications

Ad-Hoc Committees

Awards
Award of Merit

Marco Bijvank
Samira Rahimi, James Bookbinder,
Taraneh Sowlati
Samira Rahimi, Anjali Awasthi (co-chairs)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Practice Prize Competition
Student Paper Competition

TBA
TBA (Open)
TBA (Undergraduate)
Samira Rahimi, Anjali Awasthi
Ana María Anaya-Arenas, Eman Almehdawe, Saied Samiedaluie, Anjali Awasthi

Past Presidents Advisory Board
SIG Relations

Financial Planning

Kent Kostuk, Anjali Awasthi, Samira Rahimi, Marco Bijvank
Masoud Chitsaz, Anjali Awasthi, Ana María Anaya-Arenas

Industry

Micro Events

Majid Taghavi, Eman Almehdawe, Saied Samiedaluie, Masoud Chitsaz, Anjali Awasthi, Ana María Anaya-Arenas

Nominating
Traveling Speaker Program

Samira Rahimi
Samira Rahimi

Appointed Positions

INFOR Editor
Bulletin Editor
IFORS Representative

Joe Naoum-Sawaya
Andrea Friars
Majid Taghavi

Administrative Coordinator

Erla Anderson

CORS COUNCIL

CORS Council consists of the officers of the society, four councillors, the immediate past president, and the standing committee chairs.

President	Anjali Awasthi, Concordia University, president@cors.ca
Vice-President	Marco Bijvank, University of Calgary, vicepresident@cors.ca
Secretary	Majid Taghavi, Saint Mary's University, secretary@cors.ca
Treasurer	Kent Kostuk, Engcomp, treasurer@cors.ca
Past President	Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi, McGill University, pastpresident@cors.ca
Councillor (2023–2025)	Masoud Chitsaz, HEC Montreal, masoud.chitsaz@hec.ca
Councillor (2023–2025)	Saied Samiedaluie, University of Alberta, samiedal@ualberta.ca
Councillor (2024–2026)	Ana María Anaya-Arenas, UQAM, Anaya-Arenas.Ana_Maria@uqam.ca
Councillor (2024–2026)	Eman Almehdawe, University of Regina, eman.almehdawe@uregina.ca
Student Councillor	Danielle Ripsman, University of Waterloo, daripsma@uwaterloo.ca
Standing Committee Chair	Nadia Lahrichi, École Polytechnique de Montréal, nadia.lahrichi@polymtl.ca
Standing Committee Chair	Joe Naoum-Sawaya, Ivey Business School, jnaoum-sawaya@ivey.ca

SECTION AND CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

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Toronto Student	Maira MacNeil, University of Toronto, m.macneil@mail.utoronto.ca
Hamilton Student	Si Liu, McMaster University, lius278@mcmaster.ca
Okanagan Student	Armita Tehranchi, UBC Okanagan, armitat@mail.ubc.ca



OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CORS/SCRO members,

My time as CORS/SCRO president was a wonderful experience and I thoroughly enjoyed my term. I worked with a dedicated and enthusiastic Council, whose tireless efforts and unwavering support throughout the year have been invaluable. Some of the highlights of this year include:

- **Founding a new SIG:** We established a new SIG focused on Energy, Environment, and Sustainability under the leadership of Fuzhan Nasiri.
- **New Student Recognitions:** We introduced two new awards/recognitions for student members, fostering the next generation of Operational Research (OR), thanks to Houra Mahmoudzadeh and Moira MacNeil.
- **EDI Initiatives:** We launched our first Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) survey and established a new EDI fund and an EDI Excellence award, with the first award and fund given at the CORS/SCRO 2024!
- **Enhanced Social Media Presence:** Our presence on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram has grown significantly, enhancing our outreach and engagement. Thanks to Amir Ardestani-Jaafari for his efforts as well as Sibel Alumur Alev and Felipe Rodrigues.
- **Updated administrative handbook:** We updated the CORS/SCRO admin handbook to ensure our procedures are current and reflect best practices. Special thanks to Erla Anderson, Jules Comeau, and Majid Taghavi for their hard work.
- **New Initiatives for Students:** We introduced new initiatives for students, focusing on their future careers in academia and industry, as part of the scientific program for CORS/SCRO 2024. Thanks to Moira MacNeil, Houra Mahmoudzadeh, Masoud Chitsaz, and Tiffany Bayley for their contributions.
- **Enhanced industry involvement.** We have introduced new initiatives to enhance industry involvement at CORS/SCRO, such as industry networking reception which have been integrated into CORS/SCRO 2024. Thanks to the efforts of Masoud Chitsaz.
- **INFOR Journal:** Our INFOR journal metrics remained steady. Additionally, we launched new over four special issues for the INFOR journal, thanks to Joe Naoum-Sawaya and the guest editors.
- **2024 Annual Conference Success:** The CORS/SCRO Annual Conference in London, Ontario was a success, thanks to the organizing committee, Fredrik Odegaard and Tiffany Bayley, for their fantastic job!





Thanks to everyone on Council and in CORS/SCRO who contributed to making this a great year. I am proud of what we have achieved together. Looking ahead, I am excited about the upcoming CORS/SCRO annual conference in Edmonton, Alberta which will be organized by Saied Samiedaluie, Borzou Rostami, and Armann Ingolfsson.

The role of president has been handed over to Anjali Awasthi during CORS/SCRO 2024, and I am looking forward to witnessing the incredible achievements she will accomplish during her term.

Being the President of CORS/SCRO has been an absolute joy and an incredible honor, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Edmonton, Alberta for CORS/SCRO 2025.

Best,

Samira A. Rahimi



President Samira transfers the Rivett Cup to Incoming President Anjali



INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Fall 2024 CORS Bulletin!

A New Chapter Begins

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first bulletin of the Fall 2024 season! I'm thrilled to begin my tenure as the new president of CORS, Canada's leading professional society for Operational Research.



Since 1958, CORS has been a driving force in advancing the field of OR and its real-world applications. We connect a vibrant community of researchers, practitioners, students, and educators all working towards a common goal: creating impactful solutions through innovative analytics.

Looking Ahead

This year, CORS is committed to:

- **Strengthening Member Collaboration:** We aim to improve coordination between members on conference planning, website accessibility, and local chapter initiatives.
- **Enhancing Student Opportunities:** We will develop new academic and industry-focused initiatives based on student interests.
- **Building Stronger Partnerships:** We'll work on forging closer ties with other OR societies like INFORMS, EURO, and POMS. This includes benchmarking performance for continuous improvement and exploring collaborative opportunities.
- **Listening to Your Voice:** We'll be actively seeking member feedback to ensure CORS initiatives are aligned with your needs.

Celebrating Success

The recent CORS annual conference in London, Ontario, was a resounding success. We saw engaging plenaries, insightful industry events, and exciting student paper competitions. A big thank you goes to the organizers, reviewers, and judges for their outstanding contributions.

Mark Your Calendars!

The next CORS annual conference will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, from June 9-11, 2025.



Welcoming New Leaders

I'm excited to introduce the new CORS council members:

- Marco Bijvank - Vice President
- Kent Kostuk - Treasurer
- Ana María Anaya-Arenas - Councillor
- Eman Almehdawe - Councillor
- Daniel Ripsman - Student Representative

Thank you to the outgoing council members for their valuable service, particularly in organizing SIG paper competitions and launching EDI initiatives.

Additional Updates

- The Stripe system has been implemented to streamline payments and account transfers.
- Membership fee increases were proposed.

Congratulations to Award Winners

We extend our congratulations to all the CORS award winners, including Ivey Publishing (Omond Solandt Award), James Bookbinder (Award of Merit), Pinar Keskinocak (Harold Larnder Award), and many more.

Stay Connected!

We look forward to a productive year and will keep you updated on upcoming events and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Anjali



CORS COUNCIL



Anjali



Marco



Majid



Kent



Samira



Masoud



Saied



Ana María



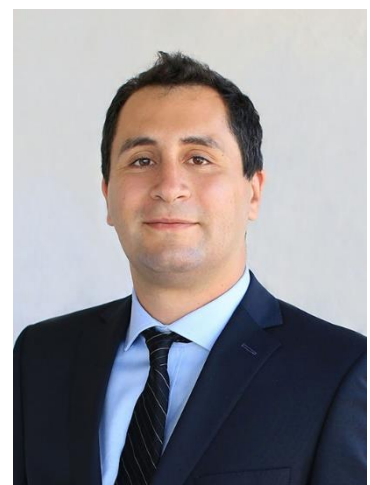
Eman



Danielle



Nadia



Joe



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORS DIPLOMA

The CORS Diploma is awarded by the Canadian Operational Research Society, in association with participating Canadian universities, to recognize CORS members who have successfully completed a program of study which has included significant exposure to operational research in the following areas: OR techniques, probability and statistics, computers and systems, and applications of OR. The objective of the Diploma is to encourage students to pursue an educational program in the field of operational research and to recognize their achievement in successfully completing such a program. It benefits the university by highlighting the fact that a student can gain significant exposure to operational research through a particular course of study offered at that university. It benefits CORS by encouraging students to pursue a career in OR and by attracting new members.

For more information, see the CORS website.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Traveling Speaker Program (TSP)

The Traveling Speaker Program enables local sections to bring OR practitioners and researchers in Canada as speakers to their local events. To keep costs in line while maximizing the CORS national profile, CORS sponsorship will be limited to 50% of the total expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per speaker or \$1000 for a single event (conference, workshop). Other expenses can be covered by the local section. The program of the event must acknowledge the contribution of CORS. The president of the local section must contact the TSP Coordinator to obtain approval for funding at least one month in advance of the event date. Payment will be made by the CORS Treasurer upon receipt of the Expense Form.

The president of the local section fills out the application form on the CORS website and submits the form to the TSP Coordinator Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi (pastpresident@cors.ca)



Edmonton skyline (Source: Wikipedia)

2025 CORS Annual Conference in Edmonton 9 – 11 June 2025, The Westin Edmonton Hotel

On behalf of the conference organizing committee, we would like to invite you to join us in Edmonton, Alberta, for the 2025 CORS Annual conference. Located in downtown Edmonton, the conference venue provides easy access to several restaurants and museums, the Edmonton Arts and Ice Districts, and the Edmonton River Valley (the largest urban park in Canada). If you are willing to travel a bit out of downtown (only 25 min. drive), you can visit the second largest shopping centre in North America, the West Edmonton Mall. If you are willing to travel a bit further (well, maybe not a tiny bit, about 4 hours drive from Edmonton), you can visit one of the most beautiful national parks in Canada, the Jasper National Park.

Stay tuned for more information about conference registration and abstract submission. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the conference organizers about sponsorship opportunities or any other inquiries.

We look forward to seeing you in Edmonton.



West Edmonton Mall (Source: Wikipedia)



Fort Edmonton Park (Source: Wikipedia)

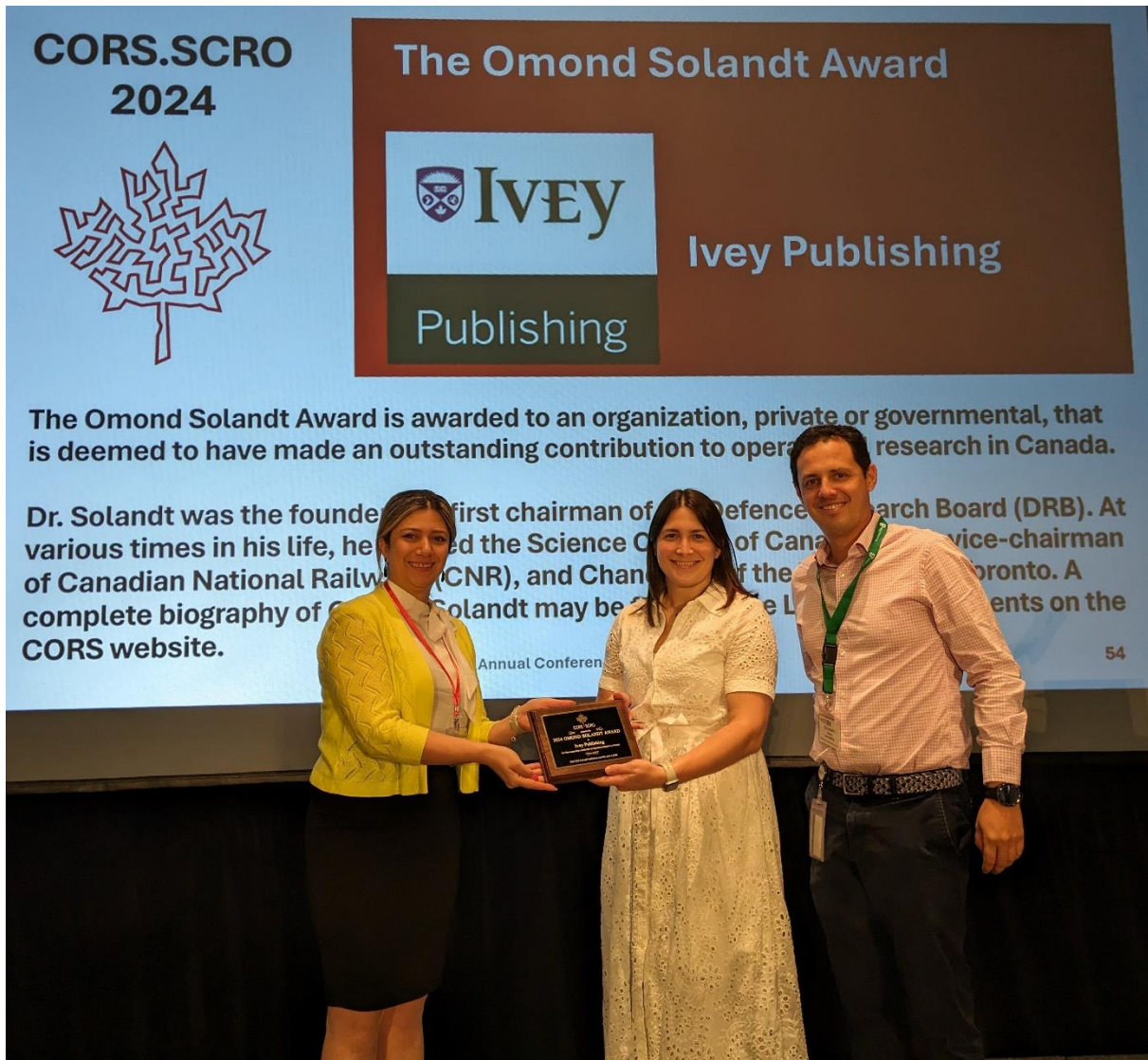


2024 CORS AWARDS

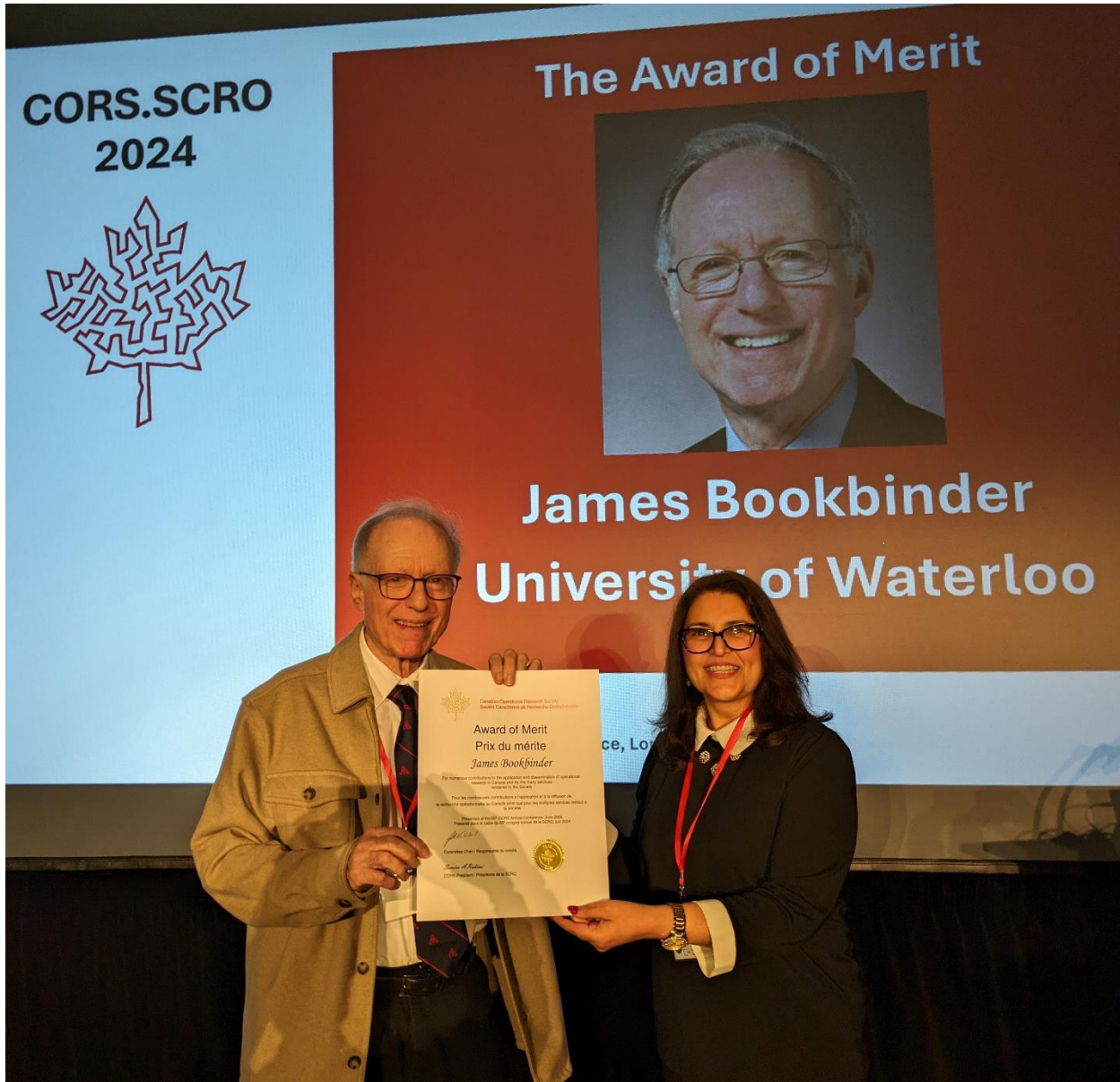
Congratulations to the recipients of the awards and prizes. Special thanks to all the participants and judges. Details on CORS awards and prizes, including a list of past recipients, can be found on the CORS website.



Harold Larnder Prize — Pinar Keskinocak



Omond Solandt Award — Ivey Publishing



Award of Merit — James Bookbinder



Eldon Gunn Service Award



Manish Verma
McMaster University



Eldon Gunn Service Award — Manish Verma, Marco Bijvank



EDI Excellence Award — Elkafi Hassini



**CORS.SCRO
2024**



EDI Event Fund

**Rachel Wong
Rachel Stephenson
University of Toronto**

EDI Event Fund — Rachel Stephenson and Rachel Wong

**CORS.SCRO
2024**



Student Member Leadership Award



**Moira MacNeil
University of Toronto**

Student Member Leadership Award — Moira MacNeil



Practice Prize — Winner

Store-specific planogram optimization

Philippe Grangier, Louis-Philippe Bigras, Sayed Ibrahim, Nabila Remli, Adrien Rimélé (Ivado Labs), Yossiri Adulyasak (HEC Montréal), Maxime Cohen (McGill University), Andréa Lodi (Cornell University), Louis-Martin Rousseau (Polytechnique Montréal)



Abstract

In brick-and-mortar retail, a planogram is a diagram that indicates the placement of products on fixtures within an aisle. Planograms are key to positive customer experience (ensuring products are easy to find) and to managing operational cost (providing more space to high-selling products means less frequent in-aisles replenishment is required). In a retail chain, planograms are typically:

- Created at a group of stores level by experts called visual merchandisers,
- Used by store personnel when setting up an aisle.

Because these generic planograms are designed for a group of stores, they do not match each store's reality regarding demand, dimensions, and assortment. Thus, store personnel must interpret them, which is time-consuming, requires experience, and often leads to suboptimal aisle configurations.

In this project, conducted in partnership with Canadian Tire, a large retailer with over 500 locations, we propose a novel data-driven algorithm to create store-specific planograms starting from reference national planograms called *protopogs*. More specifically, our algorithm creates a planogram for a given store and aisle that minimizes replenishment trips by tailoring the *protopog* to the store. From an operations research perspective, this problem belongs to the family of 2D knapsack problems. Important aspects to consider include the tradeoff between operational efficiency and *merchandising rules*, ensuring that the aisle is both visually appealing and easy to navigate for customers (e.g., ensuring that the flow of products is well aligned with the shopper's decision process). Our approach is centered on dynamic programming (DP), with an a priori enumeration filtered with MIP, and a final quadratic problem to make the spacing more harmonious.

A few key learnings from this project:

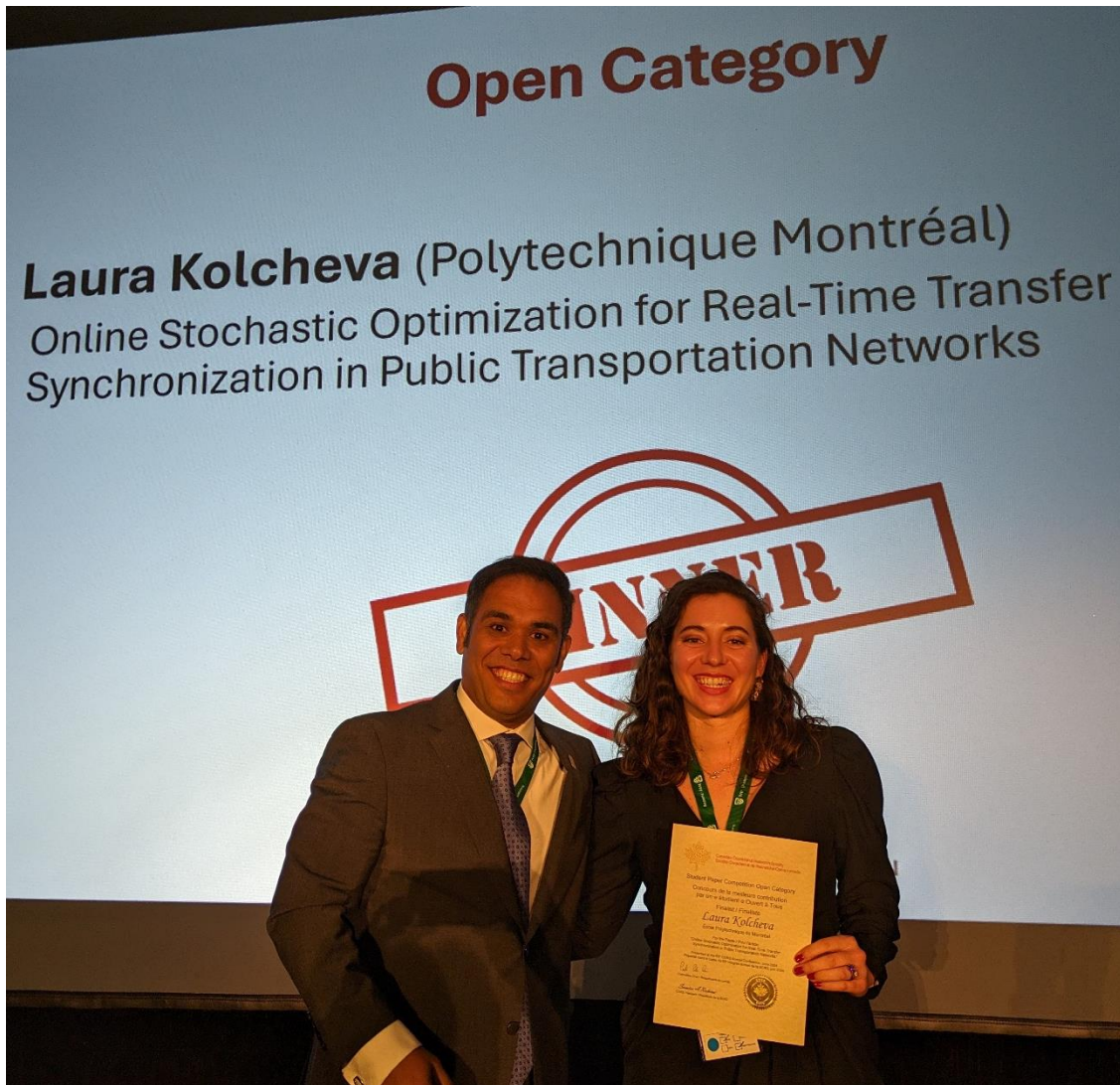
1. Merchandising constraints are really key to real life shelf planning, as shown in this project and a few recent articles
2. Supporting fixtures (especially pegboards) beyond only shelves is very important in practice: about one third of the products at Canadian Tire are not being sold on shelves. Our algorithm proposed a first generic approach for shelves, baskets, crossbars, pegboards and specialty fixtures.
3. Potential savings for a metric representing replenishment effort (a partial measure of store operational cost) are above 15% on average, and up to 50% for certain aisles

This algorithm is embedded within a web application launched to the Canadian Tire network in 2023. It has seen a good adoption and is central to the future of merchandising at this retailer.

Finalists

Hossein Abouee Mehrizi, Benjamin Ravenscroft (University of Waterloo), Xinyuan Zhang (University of British Columbia), Brendan Wylie-Toal (KidsAbility Centre for Child Development)
"Efficiency Gains in the Health Sector Through Data-Driven Patient Scheduling: The Case of Paediatric Rehabilitation Services"

Peyman Varshoei, Jonathan Patrick, Onur Ozturk (University of Ottawa), Oliver Blunn (Nucleus Independent Living)
"Scheduling and routing of home care services with periodic visits and time windows – A case study"



Student Paper Competition: Open Category — Winner

Online Stochastic Optimization for Real-Time Transfer Synchronization in Public Transportation Networks

Laura Kolcheva (École Polytechnique de Montréal)



Abstract

Transfer speed and protection are critical factors that influence passengers' willingness to use public transportation. Due to unpredictable traffic patterns, fixed transfer schedules may not always align. This work proposes two online stochastic optimization algorithms for the transfer synchronization problem using the hold, skip-stop, and speedup tactics. First, we design an offline arc-flow model using time-expanded graphs to enumerate all possible tactics. The model minimizes total passenger travel time by reducing transfer times. Then we implement two online stochastic optimization algorithms based on the offline model in a discrete-event dynamic environment. Decisions are made based on predictions of the future state of the bus network using sampling to generate scenarios from historical and real-time data. The performance of the algorithms is compared using a real dataset from the public transit system of Laval, Canada. The results show significant improvements in both the number of successful transfers and total passenger travel time across 29 bus lines. This supports the practicality of using online stochastic optimization algorithms to solve the transfer synchronization problem in real-world transportation systems.

Honourable Mention

Benjamin Ravenscroft (University of Waterloo)

“Reducing Diagnostic Imaging Wait Times: Lessons from a Large-Scale Empirical Analysis”

Finalists

Zhenghang Xu (University of Toronto)

“Queueing Causal Models: Comparative Analytics in Queueing Systems”

Danielle Ripsman (University of Waterloo)

“Superior and Light Pareto Robust Optimization”

Chair: Andre Augusto Cire (University of Toronto)

Paper Judges

Alexander Rutherford (Simon Fraser University), Samir Elhedhli, Mehrdad Pirnia, Sibel Alumur Alev (University of Waterloo), Maciej Bukczynski (University of Alberta), Aliaa Alnaggar (Toronto Metropolitan University), Armagan Ozbilge (Dalhousie University), Amina Lamghari (Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières)



Student Paper Competition: Undergraduate Category — Winner

Inventory Slotting Optimization for Stable Palletization in Distribution Centres

Claudia De Fazio, Anika Gapczynski, Chloe Pilon, Kayley Brash, Michaela Trevisan (University of Waterloo)

Abstract

Inefficient palletization in retail distribution centres contributes to millions of dollars in losses each year due to damaged goods. Improving outbound pallet stability reduces product damage during order picking, palletization, and transit and reduces safety risks to workers. Through an in-depth analysis of data from a major Canadian retail chain, we propose a data-driven solution to optimize inventory slotting for efficient and safe palletization. A two-stage approach based on mixed-integer programming is proposed, wherein the first stage optimizes the order pick sequence based on item characteristics, mainly weight and height. The second stage builds on the output from the first stage and places items into available distribution centre slots based on the determined sequences. Finally, the optimized distribution centre layout uses a k-means clustering algorithm to recommend product clusters for feasibility under operational conditions. Testing and validation are performed on data from a major section of the distribution centre, resulting in more stable outbound pallets and leading to improved order fulfillment and delivery.

Finalists

Neel Sadafule, Matin Keivanloo, Sana Dallalzadeh Atoufi, Yerkebulan Sagenov (Simon Fraser University)

“Optimizing Healthcare Delivery: A Data-Driven Approach to Panel Size Management for Enhanced Patient Care at Vancouver Coastal Health”

Thomas Enns, Natalie Tam, Skyler Nam-Wong, Yvonne Yang, Zuhayr Shaikh (University of Waterloo)
“Optimizing the Locations of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Along Ontario Highways”

Claudia De Fazio (University of Waterloo)

“Towards Sustainable Transportation: An Optimization Model for Electric Plane and High-Speed Rail Integration”

Chair: Fatma Gzara (University of Waterloo)

Paper Judge: Amina Lamghari (Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières)



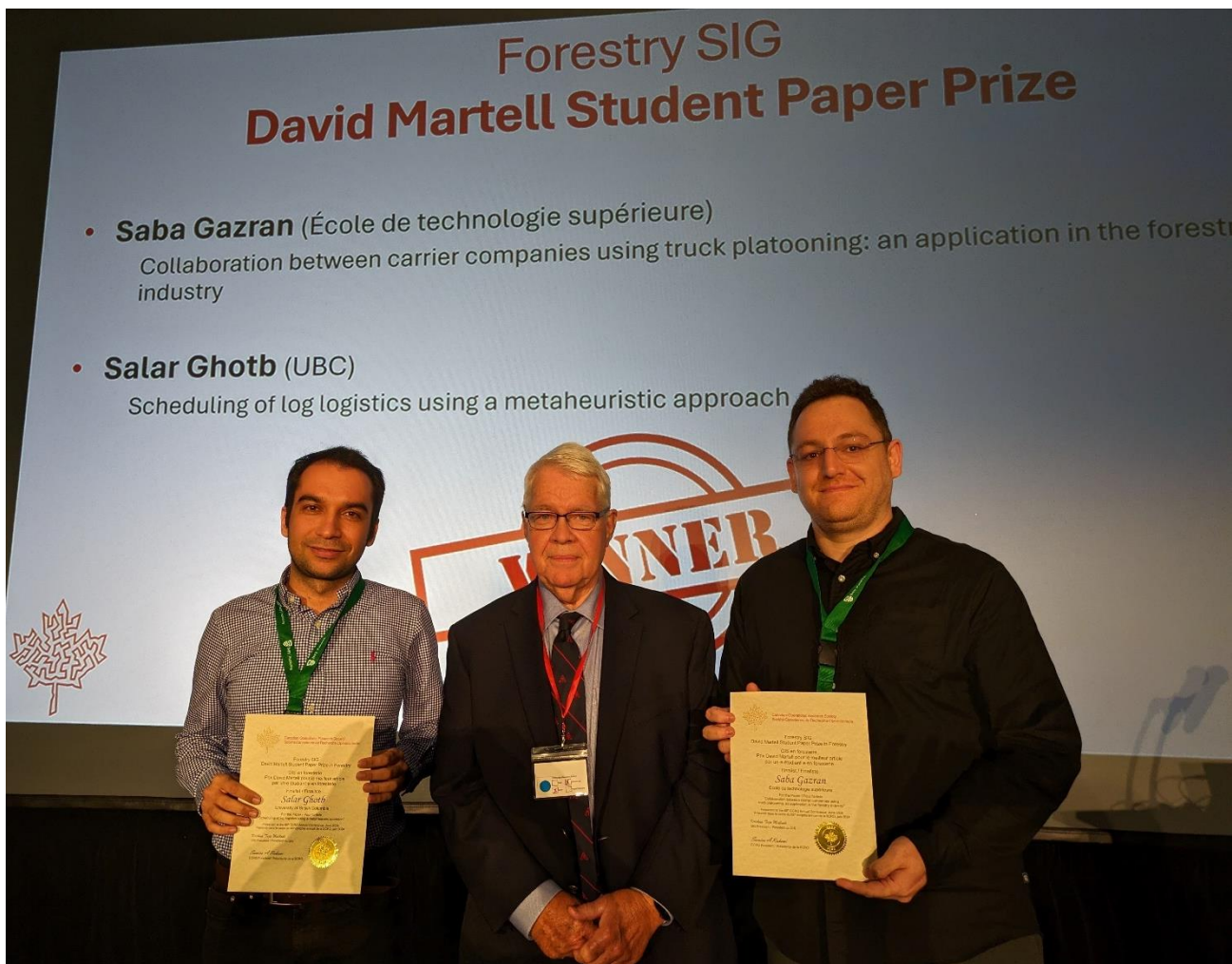
CORS Forestry SIG David Martell Student Paper Prize — Winners

Saba Gazran (École de technologie supérieure)

"Collaboration between carrier companies using truck platooning: an application in the forestry industry"

Seyed Salar Ghotb (University of British Columbia)

"Scheduling of log logistics using a metaheuristic approach"



Chair & Judge: Jules Comeau (Université de Moncton)

Judges & Committee

David Martell (University of Toronto), Mustapha Ouhimmou (École de technologie supérieure)



CORS Health Care OR SIG Student Paper Competition — Winner

Jangwon Park (University of Toronto). “Optimizing Inter-Hospital Patient Transfer Decisions During a Pandemic: A Queueing Network Approach”. Co-authors: Frances Pogacar, Timothy Chan, Vahid Sarhangian



Honourable Mention

Xinyuan Zhang (University of British Columbia). “Dynamic Service Allocation with Returns: Application to Admission and Discharge Control with Readmission in Hospital”. Co-authors: Hossein Abouee-Mehrizi, Michael Jong Kim, Ya-Tang Chuang

Finalists

Danielle Ripsman (University of Waterloo). “Superior and Light Pareto Robust Optimization”. Co-authors: Fahimeh Rahimi, Hossein Abouee-Mehrizi, Houra Mahmoudzadeh

Mahdi Shakeri (University of Calgary). “Guiding Physicians with Time-dependent Patient Selection Policies Under Shift Work”. Co-author: Marco Bijvank

Chair: Andre Augusto Cire (University of Toronto)



CORS Queueing and Applied Probability SIG Student Paper Competition — Winner

Angela Kohlenberg (Northwestern University)

“The Cost of Impatience in Dynamic Matching: Scaling Laws and Operating Regimes”



Honourable Mention

Shanshan Luo (University of British Columbia)

“Mass Vaccination Scheduling: Trading off Infections, Throughput, and Overtime”

Jangwon Park (University of Toronto)

“Dynamic Transfer Policies for Parallel Queues”

Chair: Ming Hu (University of Toronto)

Committee: Yang Li (Western University), Hossein Piri (University of Calgary)



CORS Transportation and Logistics SIG Gilbert Laporte Student Paper Award — Winner

Laura Kolcheva (Polytechnique Montréal)

“Online Stochastic Optimization for Real-Time Transfer Synchronization in Public Transportation Networks”



Honorable Mention

Xin Wang (HEC Montréal)

“Crowdkeeping in Last-Mile Delivery”



Finalists

Maedeh Sharbaf (HEC Montréal). “Risk-based shelter network design in flood-prone areas: An application to Haiti”

Bo Lin (University of Toronto). “Machine Learning-Augmented Optimization of Large Bilevel and Two-stage Stochastic Programs: Application to Cycling Network Design”

Chair: Sibel Alumur Alev (University of Waterloo)

Committee: Elena Fernández (University of Cádiz), Gilbert Laporte (HEC Montréal)



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

A SIG provides a mechanism to promote CORS, the SIG area, and the SIG members, as well as the opportunity for CORS members with common interests to interact and network.

Analytics SIG

Gregory Paradis, cors.analytics.sig@01101.io
University of British Columbia
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Analytics>

Energy, Environment, and Sustainability SIG

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Concordia University
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Energy>

Forestry SIG

Krishna Teja Malladi, malladi.kt@gmail.com
University of British Columbia
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Forestry>

Health Care Operational Research SIG

Valérie Bélanger, valerie.3.belanger@hec.ca
HEC Montréal
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/HCOR>

Queueing and Applied Probability SIG

Yichuan Ding, daniel.ding@mcgill.ca
McGill University
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Queueing>

Teaching and Learning SIG

Andrea Friars
Canadian Blood Services
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Teaching>

Transportation and Logistics SIG

Sibel Alumur Alev, sibel.alumur@uwaterloo.ca
University of Waterloo
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Transportation>

If you would like to join a SIG, contact the people listed above, or indicate when you renew your CORS membership. CORS encourages members with common interest in an area within or related to operational research to form additional SIGs. More information can be found on the CORS website.

If you are interested in forming a SIG in a particular area
contact Marco Bijvank (vicepresident@cors.ca)

SIG NEWS

Transportation and Logistics SIG

This year, we held the inaugural Gilbert Laporte Student Paper Award, recognizing exceptional scientific contributions to the theory, methodology, and practice of OR in Transportation and Logistics. We received excellent submissions, and four outstanding finalists presented their work at this year's CORS Conference held in London, Ontario.

The winner is Laura Kolcheva (Ph.D. Student at Polytechnique Montréal) for her paper "Online Stochastic Optimization for Real-Time Transfer Synchronization in Public Transportation Networks".

The honorable mention went to Xin Wang (Ph.D. Student at HEC Montréal) for her paper "Crowdkeeping in Last-Mile Delivery".

The other two finalists were Maedah Sharbaf (Ph.D. student at HEC Montréal) for "Risk-based shelter network design in flood-prone areas: An application to Haiti", and Bo Lin (Ph.D. student at the University of Toronto) for "Machine Learning-Augmented Optimization of Large Bilevel and Two-stage Stochastic Programs: Application to Cycling Network Design".

The jury was composed of Sibel Alumur Alev (chair), Elena Fernandez, and Gilbert Laporte himself. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this competition. We look forward to holding it again next year.





Energy, Environment, and Sustainability SIG

The SIG website is created. We're inviting news items and inputs from CORS members:

<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Energy/>

Our inaugural special issue is now live and accepting submissions:

https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/energy-environment-and-sustainability-ees/

Teaching and Learning SIG

We're thrilled to announce an ongoing series where YOU get to share your favorite teaching resources. Whether it's an engaging case study, an innovative game, or cutting-edge software that has made a difference in your courses, we want to hear about it!

Submit your reviews to andreafrs@gmail.com and let your fellow members discover the tools that have elevated your teaching experience. Let's inspire and learn from each other.

This issue's review is courtesy of Kyle Maclean (k.d.macleam@gmail.com) and Kyle welcomes you to reach out by e-mail if you want more information.

"I have used Jamovi in an elective course. Jamovi is an open source / free software available either online or pc/mac. It is a no-code software built on top of R, that makes it easy to run multiple regression/scatterplot/ logistic regressions and other predictive modelling analyses. I find it super valuable for doing more "complicated" things than Excel usually allows while still not having to spend time introducing students to R or Python. The students find it easy to pick up and finally find statistics "fun" because they can easily try lots of different models quickly."

<https://www.jamovi.org/>

SECTION & CHAPTER NEWS

Atlantic Section

ACORS graduate student poster competition at the 2024 Designing Productivity Conference

On June 21st, 2024, the Atlantic Chapter of CORS (A-CORS) and the Department of Industrial Engineering at Dalhousie University hosted the 2024 Designing Productivity Conference in Halifax (Kjipuktuk). This annual conference, where academia and industry exchange ideas and learn from each other, was very well attended. Participants heard from plenary speakers from industry, researchers, and graduate students. The inaugural A-CORS graduate student poster competition took place during the conference, with 15 finalists from Cape Breton University and Dalhousie University.



A view of the posters.



Drs. Claver Diallo and Hamid Afshari posing with some of the award winners.

List of winners

1st Place PhD Category: Mostafavi Sani

Runner-up PhD Category: Gizem Koca

1st Place MASc. Category: Mina Valaei

Runner-up MASc. Category: Amelia Lane & Lindsay Cormier

1st Place Post-Baccalaureate Category: Premkumar Kumarasamy

Runner-up Post-Baccalaureate Category: Rohith Sebastian

A summary description of the 2024 Designing Productivity Conference by Dr. Colleen Dewis, the chair of the organizing committee, can be found at the following link

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/designing-productivity-2024-sustainable-innovations-colleen-dewis-9udrc/>



2024–2025 CORS BUDGET

Account Balances	Opening April 1, 2023	Closing March 31, 2024
Chequing	210,960.16	218,447.12
PayPal	22,127.23	23,502.35
Cash on Hand	400.00	366.40
Total Assets	233,487.39	242,315.87

	2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Revenue					
Membership	30,000	33,435.00	30,000	30,190.41	30,000
Conference	-	20,268.70	-	22,612.31	10,000
Conference Advance	40,000	-	-	-	-
INFOR	-	16,035.60	25,000	14,786.98	20,000
Sales Tax Collected	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	150.00	-
Total Revenue	70,000	69,739.30	55,000	67,739.70	60,000



Expenses	2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Accounting Services	2,500	17,661.25	8,000	17,603.30	8,000
Administrative Support	12,600	12,600.00	12,600	11,550.00	-
Bookkeeping Support	4,800	4,800.00	4,800	4,400.00	-
Administrative Coordinator	-	-	-	-	25,000
Administrative Expenses	2,000	1,921.24	2,000	997.97	2,000
Bookkeeping Expenses	1,000	-	200	-	200
Translation Services	2,500	1,357.90	2,500	1,737.16	2,500
Council Meeting	4,000	8,374.09	4,000	4,672.29	7,000
Section Shares (Dues)	15,000	-	15,000	-	15,000
SIG Budgets	-	113.83	6,000	1,645.90	6,000
IFORS Subscription	1,500	1,797.82	500	-	500
Conference Expenses	4,000	-	-	2,430.00	-
Conference Advance Paid	-	-	-	-	-
Awards & Prizes	3,600	2,976.48	5,000	250.00	3,000
Travelling Speaker Program	2,000	-	2,000	-	2,000
INFOR Expenses		42,911.36	-	32.00	-
Sales Tax Remitted	15,000	-	-	2,326.59	-
Banking Charges	1,500	1,421.50	1,500	2,043.83	1,500
Web Services	5,000	505.00	2,000	820.39	2,000
Grad Student Conf Support	8,000	15,650.85	8,000	6,750.00	8,000
Board & Event Insurance	-	1,325.16	1,500	1,252.00	1,500
EDI Initiatives	-	-	2,500	-	2,500
Miscellaneous	-	208.41	-	-	-
Total Expenses	85,000	113,624.89	78,100	58,511.43	86,700

	2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Revenue	70,000	69,739.30	55,000	67,739.70	60,000
Total Expenses	85,000	113,624.89	78,100	58,511.43	86,700
Net Revenue	(15,000)	(43,885.59)	(23,100)	9,228.27	(26,700)



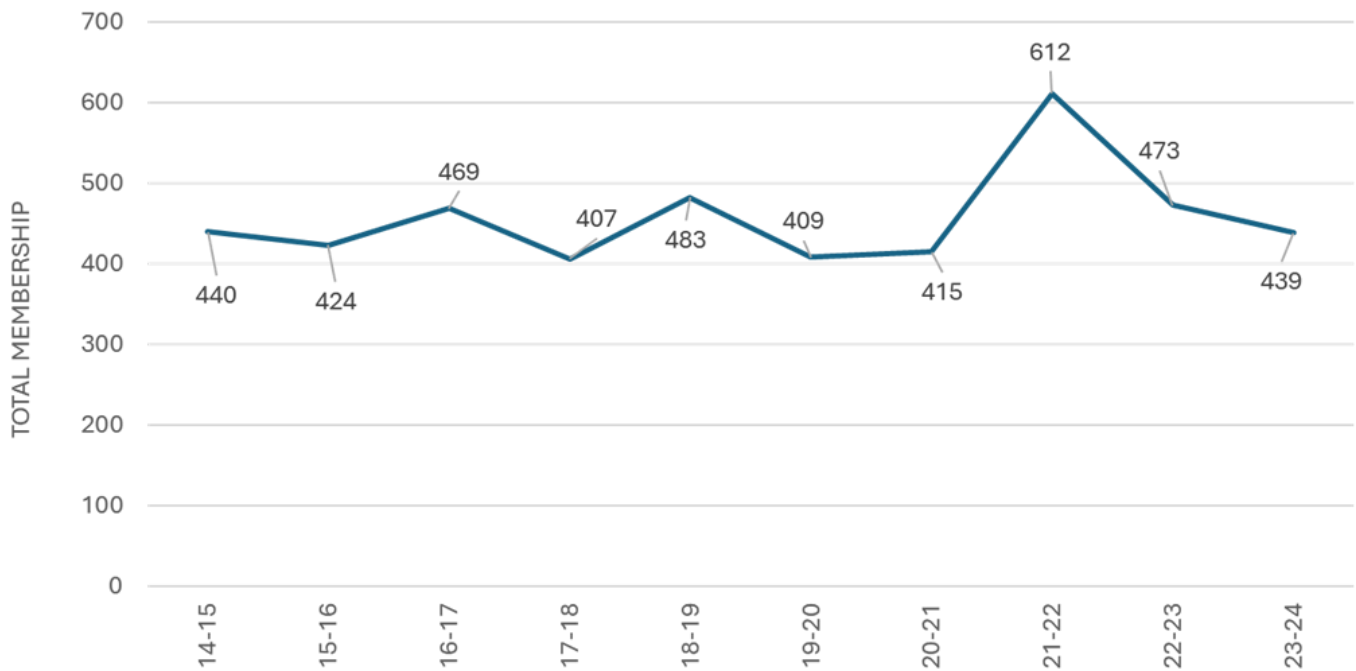
2023–2024 CORS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I am pleased to submit the 2023–2024 Annual Membership Report of the Canadian Operational Research Society, which documents the membership activities experienced by the Society over the past year, for the consideration of CORS Council. The report provides the Council with the information it needs to assess the health and well-being of the Society; to monitor the effectiveness of membership processes and practices; and to identify areas where policy initiatives or changes may be required.

These graphs summarize the report, which can be seen in full on the CORS website.

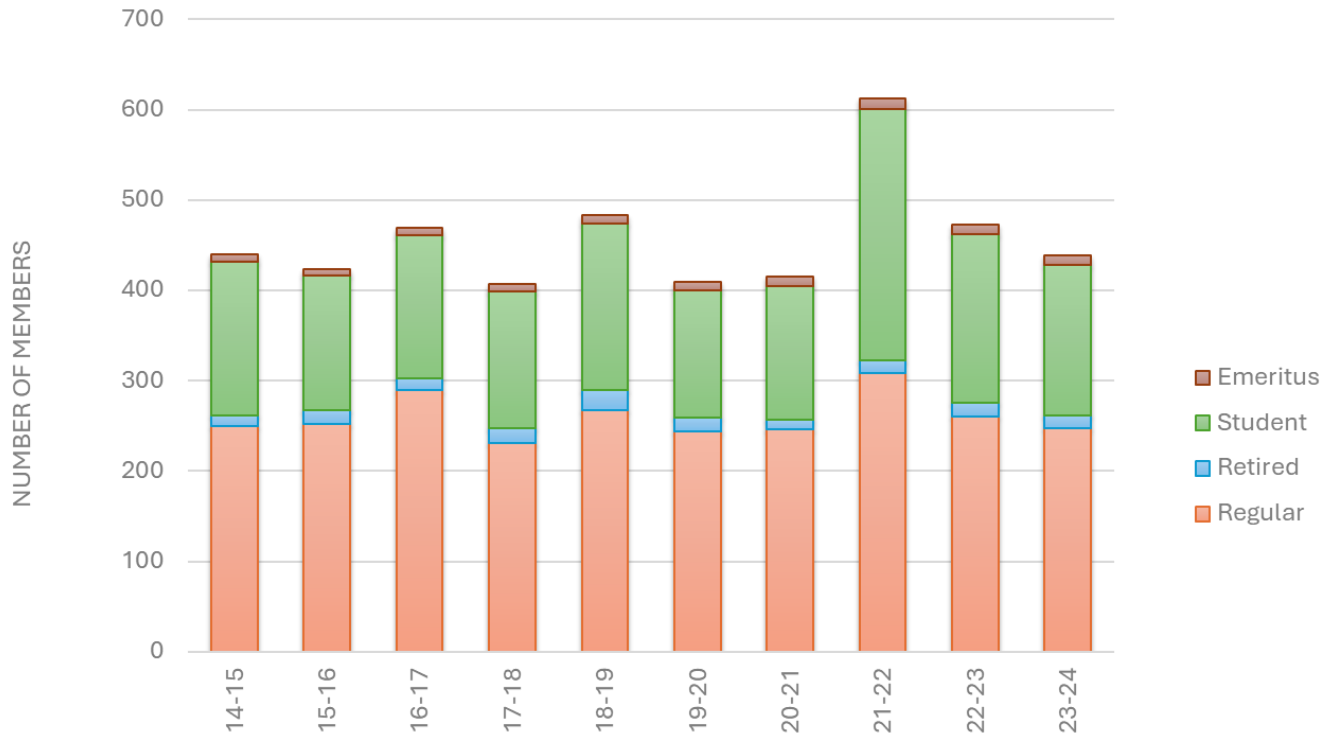
Erla Anderson, Administrative Coordinator

Membership 2014–2024 on March 31



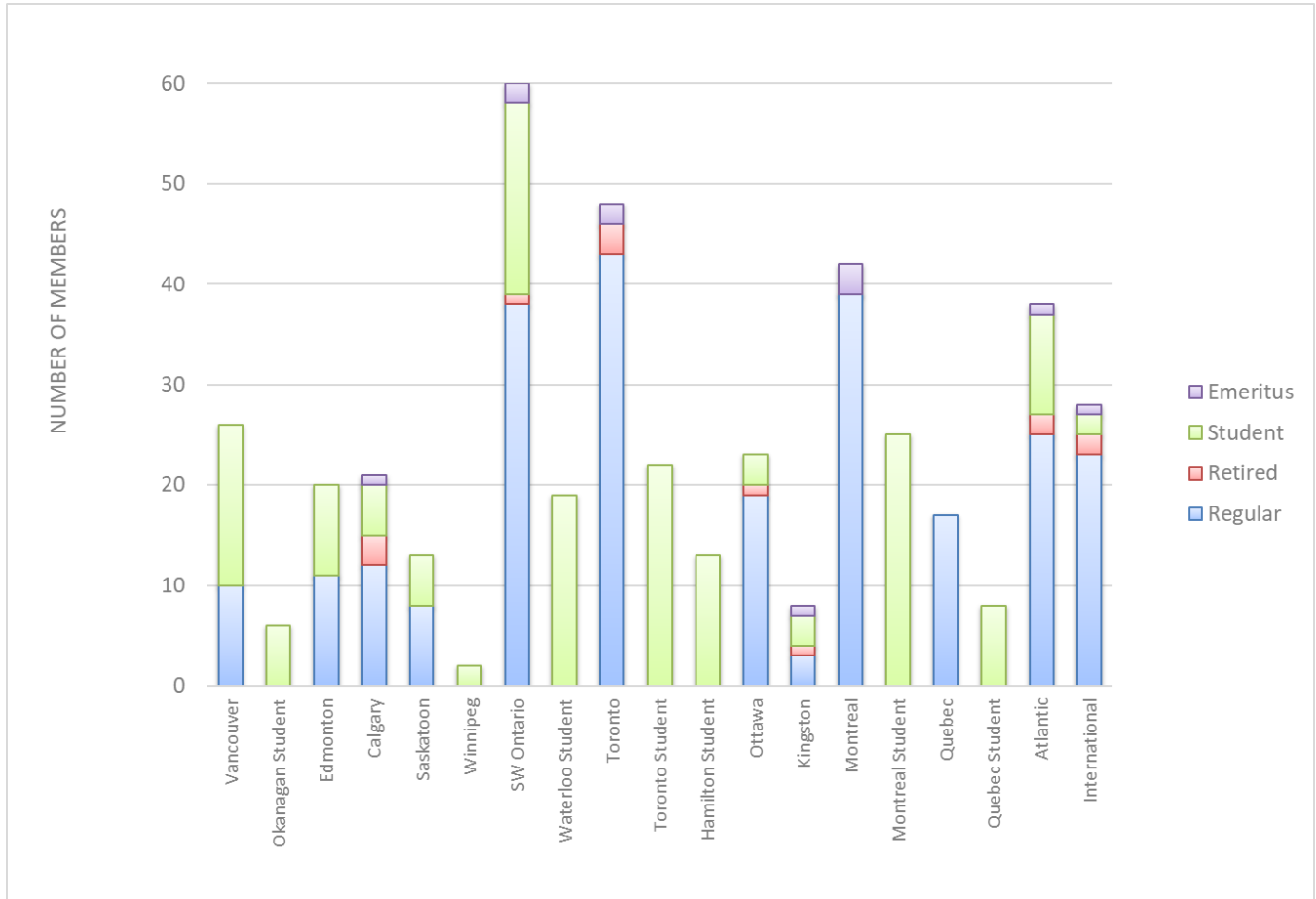


Membership by Member Type 2014–2024 on March 31



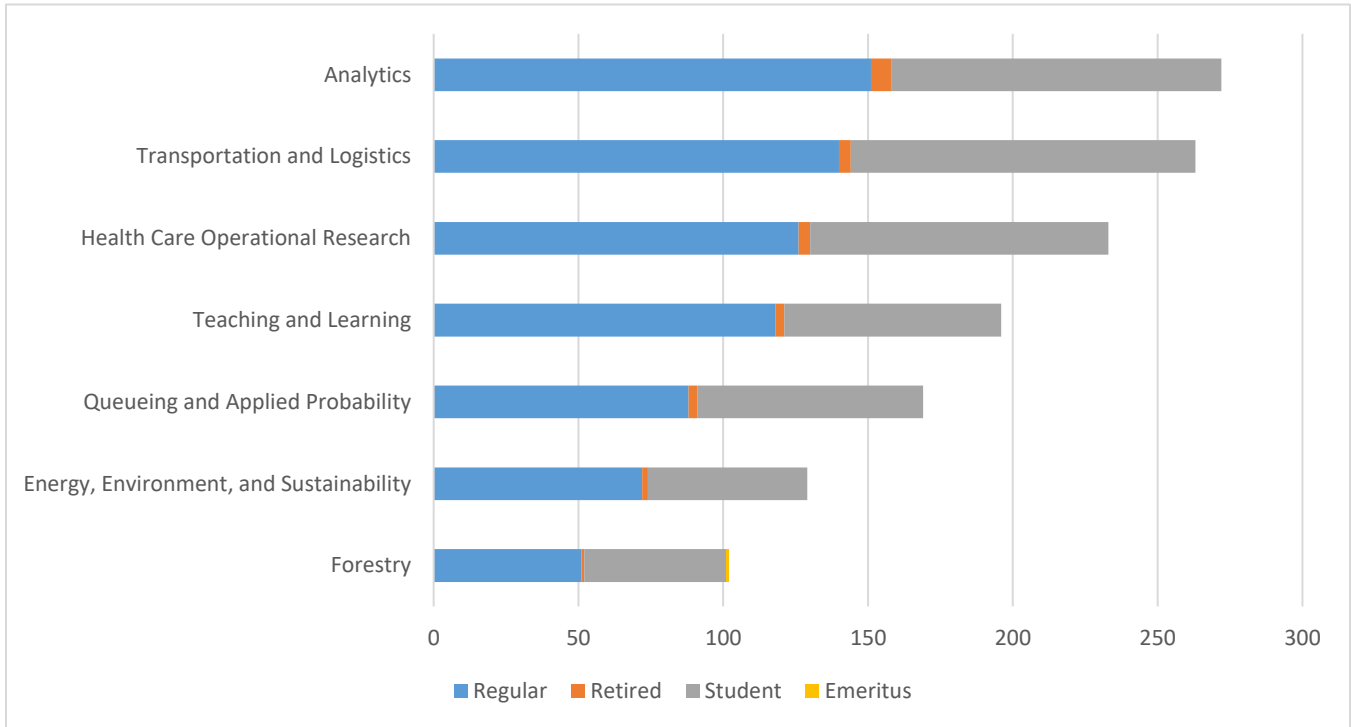


Membership by Section (Chapter) and Member Type on March 31, 2024



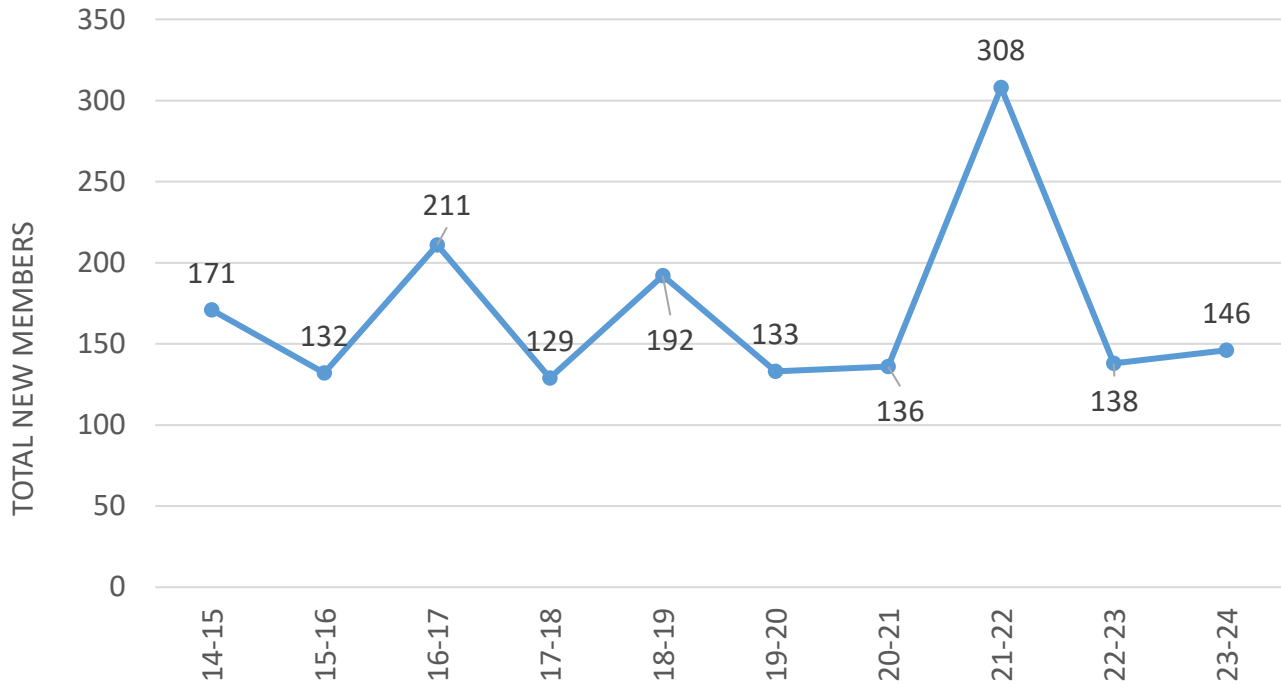


Membership by SIG and Member Type on June 3, 2024

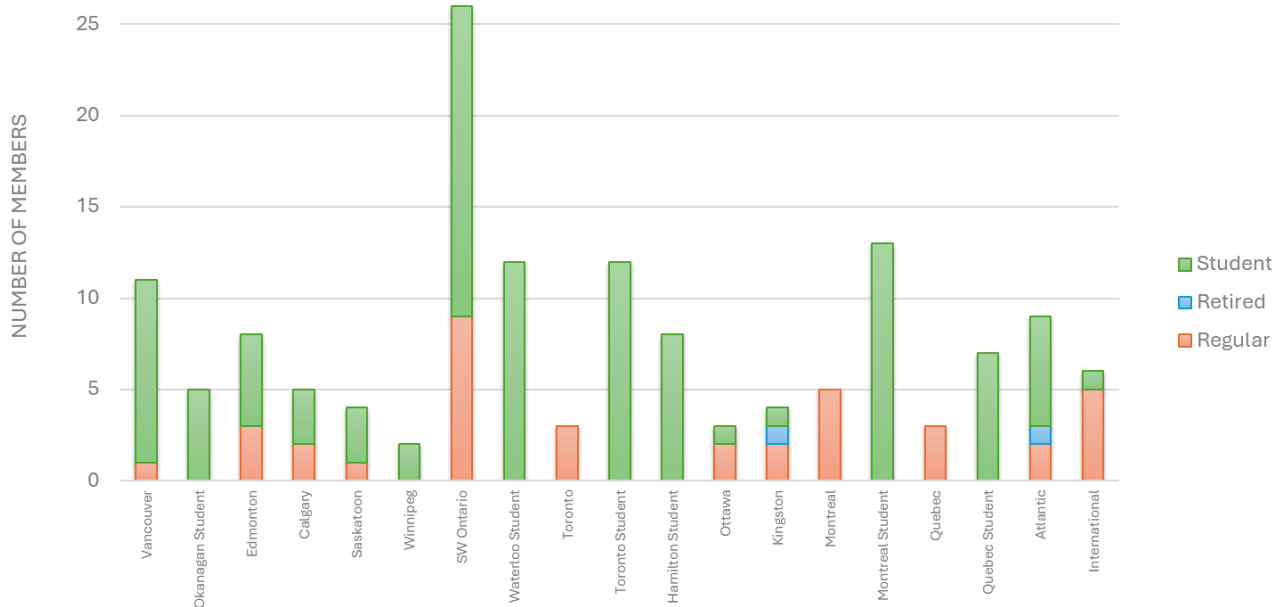




New Memberships 2014–2024 on March 31



New Memberships by Section (Chapter) and Member Type on March 31, 2024





MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Business Meetings

5 June 2024	Meeting #1, Conference
20 Sep 2024	Meeting #2, Teleconference
15 Nov 2024	Meeting #3, Montreal
24 Jan 2025	Meeting #4, Teleconference
14 Mar 2025	Meeting #5, Teleconference
25 April 2025	Meeting #6, Teleconference, Financial Planning Committee
8 June 2025	Meeting #7, Conference
9 June 2025	Meeting #8, Conference, SIGs, Sections, Chapters
10 June 2025	Meeting #9, Conference, CORS AGM

CORS Annual Conferences

9–11 June 2025 Annual Conference, Edmonton, Alta.

WWW Conference Listings

CORS: www.cors.ca/?q=content/cors-annual-conferences

INFORMS: <https://www.informs.org/Meetings-Conferences>

IFORS: www.ifors.org/web

Netlib Conference Database: <ftp://ftp.cc.ac.cn/netlib/confdb/Conferences.html>

SIAM: www.siam.org/meetings/calendar.php

POMS: <https://pomsmeetings.org>

EURO: www.euro-online.org/web/pages/460/calendar



THE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Bulletin will be published in **November**. Contributions to this issue, especially news on the activities of local sections or CORS members, should be submitted by **18 October 2024** to:

Andrea Friars
Editor, CORS Bulletin
Email: AndreaFriars@gmail.com

The preferred method of submission is by an MS Word attachment to an email.

CORS BULLETIN TRANSLATION POLICY

Items that are CORS business will be translated into English and French. All other items will be published in the language in which they are submitted.

CORS BULLETIN ADVERTISING POLICY

Ads cost \$120 per page, proportional for fractional pages. Logos and prepared layouts can be accommodated. This fee also includes distribution of the advertisement on the CORS Mailing List. Direct inquiries to the Editor.

CORS MAILING LIST

As a benefit of membership, members may use the CORS Mailing List to transmit messages, announcements, and job postings to the entire membership or to a targeted subgroup such as a local section. For example:

- messages regarding the activities and business of the society
- announcements about conferences, conference sessions, special journal issues, seminars, or other activities if these are related to operational research in its broadest sense
- job postings of general interest to CORS members

The Mailing List is not used for commercial purposes, and all messages are vetted before they are sent out. To submit items to the Mailing List, please email members@cors.ca

For non-members, a fee of \$60 is charged for the distribution of job postings and other announcements or messages of interest to the CORS membership.



The **Canadian Operational Research Society** was founded in 1958. Its goal is to advance the theory and practice of OR and to stimulate and promote contacts between people interested in the subject.

Publications: A quarterly scientific journal called *INFOR* and a news *Bulletin*.

Meetings: An annual national conference with an award ceremony, occasionally organized jointly with an international society (IFORS, INFORMS), and numerous local events organized by local sections.

Local Sections & Chapters: CORS has 12 local sections located throughout Canada and six student chapters.

Awards and Prizes: CORS presents the following annual awards and prizes at its conference:

Award of Merit for significant contributions to OR of a present or past member of CORS.

Harold Larnder Award to an individual who has achieved international distinction in OR.

Omond Solandt Award to an organization, private or governmental, that is deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to OR in Canada.

Practice Prize for the challenging application of the OR approach to the solution of applied problems.

Eldon Gunn Service Award for outstanding contributions of time and service to the society.

Student Paper Competition to recognize the contribution of a paper either directly to the field of OR through the development of methodology or to another field through the application of OR.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Excellence Award to recognize outstanding commitment and achievements in advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion within CORS.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Event Fund to support initiatives that actively promote and celebrate equity, diversity, and inclusion within the CORS community.

Student Member Leadership Award in recognition of exemplary leadership in service to the Society as a student member.

Student Chapter Recognition in recognition of members of student chapters in promoting OR in the student membership at the local and national levels.

Graduate Student Funding: CORS encourages attendance of graduate students at its conference by providing partial funding. Visit the CORS website for details.

CORS Diploma: This diploma is awarded to students graduating from a university curriculum comprising several OR courses. Criteria can be found on the CORS website.

Membership Directory: An online directory of CORS members is available as a membership benefit.

To join CORS: Go to the CORS website and join online by credit card using the form found under membership or complete the PDF application form found on the CORS website and mail it with payment.

Fees: Member \$110; Retired Member \$55; Student Member \$45 (including post-doctoral researchers)

Website: <https://www.cors.ca>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CORS_President

INFOR: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tinf20>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/canadian-operational-research-society>