



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

Welcome to the February 2025 edition of the bulletin! As we embark on a new year filled with exciting possibilities in the field of operational research, this issue brings you a wealth of news, updates, and opportunities within the Canadian Operational Research Society.

You'll find a message from our President, outlining their vision for the year ahead and highlighting key initiatives. We also have a call for nominations for various awards and leadership positions within CORS – a chance to recognize excellence and contribute to the Society's future.

The countdown is on for our Annual Conference in Edmonton! This issue provides further details about the submission process and accommodation options. Start planning your trip now for what promises to be an enriching event.

We also highlight the vibrant activities of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and sections/chapters. Learn about their recent achievements, upcoming events, and how you can get involved.

We welcome your feedback and contributions. We encourage you to connect with us and your fellow CORS members, and to actively participate in the dynamic OR community across Canada.

Cheers,

Andrea

CORS Council

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President
Councillors

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

Student Councillor
Standing Committee Chairs

Standing Committees

Membership

Saied Samiedaluie

Education & Student Affairs

Nadia Lahrichi, Eman Almehdawe
(co-chairs)

Program

Marco Bijvank, Anjali Awasthi, Fredrik
Odegaard, Borzou Rostami, Kent Kostuk

Public Relations

Amir Ardestani-Jaafari, Eman Almehdawe,
Saied Samiedaluie

Publications

Joe Naoum-Sawaya, Andrea Friars,
Ana María Anaya-Arenas

Ad-Hoc Committees

Awards

Marco Bijvank, Eman Almehdawe
(co-chairs)

Award of Merit

Samira Rahimi, James Bookbinder,
Taraneh Sowlati

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
Practice Prize Competition
Student Paper Competition

Samira Rahimi, Anjali Awasthi (co-chairs)
Antoine Legrain
Andre Cire (Open)

Past Presidents Advisory Board
SIG Relations

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

Financial Planning

Kent Kostuk, Anjali Awasthi,
Samira Rahimi, Marco Bijvank

Industry

Marco Bijvank, Anjali Awasthi,
Ana María Anaya-Arenas

Micro Events

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

Nominating

Samira Rahimi

Traveling Speaker Program

Samira Rahimi

Appointed Positions

INFOR Editor
Bulletin Editor
IFORS Representative

Joe Naoum-Sawaya
Andrea Friars
Majid Taghavi

Administrative Coordinator

Erla Anderson (members@cors.ca)



CORS COUNCIL

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Standing Committee Chair	Joe Naoum-Sawaya, Ivey Business School, jnaoum-sawaya@ivey.ca
Standing Committee Chair	Amir Ardestani-Jaafari, UBC Okanagan, amir.ardestani@ubc.ca

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Alberta Student	Sina Taheria, University of Calgary, Sina.Taheria@ucalgary.ca
Kingston Student	Peash Saha, Queen's University, p.saha@queensu.ca



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow CORS members,

Wish you a very happy new year 2025! May it be full of success, happiness and good health for you and your loved ones.

It is now time to update you on the various initiatives that have taken place at CORS since our last in-person meeting at Montreal in November 2024. First of all, I am very delighted to share with you the overwhelming success of our online monthly talks organized as part of CORS micro-events. I would like to particularly acknowledge Prof. Sally Brailsford, Dr. Averill L. Kelton, Prof. Martin Trepanier, Prof. Guoqing Zhang, Dr. Ivan Taylor, Dr.

Yossiri Adulyasak, Prof. Fredrik Odegaard, Dr. Ana Maria Anaya-Arenas, Christian Chenard Lemire, Greg Rodriguez, Matthew Davis, and Prof. Ursula Eicker for their participation in these events and sharing of wisdom and expertise. These events have truly embodied the spirit of global learning and knowledge transfer at CORS, the first of its kind in my opinion, along with promoting Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) on an international landscape. Various SIGs, student chapters, and local sections have also contributed to these events and the momentum must go on.

Second, the CORS website is in transition phase nowadays as you are already aware. In few days, you will see the new look of CORS website with more secure features, and up to date information on local sections, student chapters and SIGs. It will also have links to our upcoming CORS 2025 conference in Edmonton where you can submit your abstract, participate in student competitions, and organize thematic sessions on OR.

Third, I am happy to announce the launch of a new mentorship program at CORS with the aim to assist various CORS members in taking leadership roles at research, teaching, and other international societies. Congratulations to Dr. Sibel Alumur Alev on her new role as vice-president of IFORS! I look forward to discussing more with you on this important topic in Edmonton on how to bring new opportunities to grow and support each other.

Fourth, I would like to welcome Dr. Onur Ozturk, Dr. Vahid Roshanaei, Dr. Elaheh Ghasemi, and Dr. Salar Ghotb as new local section chairs for Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver sections, and Dr. Stephanie Kelley and Dr. Cecilia Ying as Presidents of Analytics SIG. Positions are open in various student chapters and other sections for leadership roles. Please apply and nominate and help increase membership at CORS.

Last, but not the least, I am striving to take CORS to greater heights in the coming years. In this regard, I have adopted an open-door policy, and your ideas and suggestions are welcome. Together, we can achieve so more.

Wishing you all a very fruitful and successful 2025!

Yours sincerely, *Anjali*



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). Other tourist attractions in the city include the West Edmonton Mall, Fort Edmonton Park, Royal Alberta Museum, and Art Gallery of Alberta.

Abstract submission and registration are now open: <https://site.pheedloop.com/event/cors2025/home>

Important dates:

- Abstract submission deadline: March 2, 2025
- Notification of abstract acceptance: March 15, 2025
- Early registration / presenter registration deadline: April 30, 2025

Accommodation: We have secured a limited room block at The Westin Edmonton, offering a special rate for conference participants. Details are as follows:

- Room rate: CAD 179.00 per night (plus applicable taxes and fees)
- Available room types: Traditional guest room with two double beds, Traditional guest room with one king bed
- Valid booking dates: Friday, June 6, 2025 to Thursday, June 12, 2025
- Special rate deadline: May 8, 2025

[Book Now: The Westin Edmonton CORS 2025 Rate](#)

We look forward to seeing you in Edmonton.

Organizing Committee: Armann Ingolfsson (Co-Chair), Saied Samiedaluie (Co-Chair), Borzou Rostami (Program Chair), Kent Kostuk (Conference Treasurer & CORS Council Liaison)



CORS MEMBERS MAKING WAVES

John Chinneck

John Chinneck was awarded the 2024 Impact Prize at the INFORMS Annual Meeting in Seattle. This award is given every two years to recognize someone who has had a widespread impact on the practice of operations research.

Citation

The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) proudly awards the 2024 INFORMS Impact Prize to Professor John Chinneck for his seminal contributions to infeasibility analysis in optimization. His pioneering work has profoundly transformed the landscape of optimization, equipping practitioners with essential tools to diagnose and resolve infeasible models.

Chinneck's groundbreaking algorithms for identifying Irreducible Infeasible Sets (IIS) have become integral to virtually all major commercial optimization solvers. These algorithms, first implemented in MINOS and later adopted by leading solvers like LINDO, CPLEX, and Gurobi, have empowered users to pinpoint the causes of infeasibility in linear and mixed-integer programming models. This functionality has not only enhanced model debugging but has also facilitated the acceptance and expansion of mathematical programming in industrial applications worldwide.

The impact of Chinneck's work is evidenced by the widespread adoption of his algorithms, which have been incorporated into numerous solver APIs and modeling languages, such as AMPL, GAMS, and MATLAB, enhancing their robustness and utility. His contributions have significantly improved the efficiency of model development, saving countless hours for optimization practitioners and enabling the development of larger and more complex models.

Beyond academia, Chinneck's influence extends to practical applications in diverse industries, from radiation treatment planning and computer vision to signal recovery and network analysis. His algorithms have proven crucial in refining model formulations and conducting sensitivity analyses, thereby advancing the field of optimization in both theoretical and practical dimensions.

Chinneck's work has been recognized and implemented by major corporations and has profoundly influenced the development of optimization software over the past three decades. His contributions have facilitated significant advancements in operational efficiency and decision-making processes across various sectors. For these reasons, INFORMS is honored to present the 2024 Impact Prize to Professor John Chinneck, celebrating his lasting contributions to the field of operations research and management science.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Corner

This section of the CORS Bulletin highlights recent discussions by the CORS Council and motions of particular interest that have been passed.

To avoid instances where the same paper is awarded as winner in multiple CORS paper competitions, the CORS Council has decided to include two additional eligibility criteria for this year's competitions:

1. The same paper can be submitted to multiple CORS paper competitions in the same year. However, it CANNOT be selected as a finalist to multiple CORS paper competitions in the same academic year (either SIGs, Undergraduate Category, or Open Category). If a paper is selected as a finalist by multiple competition committees, then the student has to decide in which competition the paper remains as a finalist.
2. Once a paper has been awarded as Winner or Runner Up in any CORS paper competition (either SIGs, Undergraduate Category, or Open Category), the same paper cannot be submitted again to a CORS paper competition.

CORS Membership

Renew your CORS membership for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Fees are due by 1 April 2025.

You may be able to use an NSERC grant to pay membership dues for yourself and your graduate students.

Please renew your membership on the CORS website.



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

The Traveling Speaker Program (TSP) 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)



Graduate Student Funding

Description

CORS partially funds graduate students attending CORS annual meetings.

Eligibility

The candidate must be:

- A Student Member of CORS
- Enrolled in a graduate program in a field related to operational research
- Studying at a Canadian university or a Canadian citizen or permanent resident studying abroad
- Attend the conference and present their registration receipt to receive any funding.

Selection Considerations

The following criteria are to be used to determine the amount awarded to each eligible applicant:

- Whether the applicant is presenting a paper at the conference.
- Travel cost from student's home city to the conference.

Application Process

The application form for funding is available on the CORS website. Applications must be received at least two months before the conference date to receive full consideration. Applicants who meet this deadline will be notified at least one month before the conference date whether their application was successful.

Administration of Funding

The CORS Education & Student Affairs Chair determines who will receive funding and the amount of the award. The CORS Treasurer administers the distribution of funds after receiving confirmation that the student attended the conference.

Reimbursement Process

Students must submit proof they attended the conference (e.g., boarding pass, selfie at conference site) within 30 days of the Annual CORS Conference to the CORS Treasurer (treasurer@cors.ca) and must copy their supervisors on the email. The CORS Treasurer administers the distribution of funds after receiving confirmation that the student attended the conference and will notify the student's supervisor.

Please submit applications by **24 March 2025**

to CORS Education & Student Affairs Chair Nadia Lahrichi (nadia.lahrichi@polymtl.ca)



2025–2026 CORS COUNCIL: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

There are two positions to fill for the 2025–2026 CORS Council.

To nominate a CORS member to serve in one of these positions send their name and contact information to Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi (pastpresident@cors.ca).

Please make sure your nominee is aware of the nomination. Note that self nominations are welcomed.

For more details regarding the various positions visit: <https://www.cors.ca> in particular, see the Bylaws and Administrative Handbook documents online at <https://www.cors.ca/content/library>

All nominees will be contacted and asked to provide a writeup for the May edition of the Bulletin.

Councillor (Two-year term 2025–2027)

Four councillors sit on council and participate in the management of the society. Often, councillors are called upon to chair or serve on ad hoc or standing committees and to work on special projects.

Student Councillor (One-year term 2025–2026)

Following a discussion at the 2023 Annual Conference, members voted in favor of adding a Student Councillor to the governing body of the Society. Student members make up between $\frac{1}{4}$ and a $\frac{1}{2}$ of CORS/SCRO members most years and are the future of our society. The Student Councillor represents the interests of our student members and advocates on their behalf. The Student Councillor has the same voting privileges as other Councillors.



CORS AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

OMOND SOLANDT AWARD

The Omond Solandt Award is presented to an organization, private or governmental, that is deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to Operational Research in Canada. Dr. Solandt was the founder and first chair of the Defence Research Board (DRB). At various times in his life, he headed the Science Council of Canada, was vice chair of Canadian National Railways (CNR), and Chancellor of the University of Toronto.

It is the responsibility of the Awards Committee, with input from the Local Conference Organizing Committee, to select the recipient of the Solandt Award. Where possible, the nominee is a local organization, or a regional or national organization that is significant to the local area. To nominate a company for the award, please email the company's name, headquarters location (city, country), and a brief statement supporting the nomination. Please also provide a contact person within the company if possible.

Please submit nominations by **25 February 2025** to CORS Awards Committee Chair Marco Bijvank (vicepresident@cors.ca)

AWARD OF MERIT

The Award of Merit is presented annually to a current or past member of CORS in recognition of significant contributions to the profession of operational research.

Significant contributions to the profession of OR can include:

- being specially recognized as an operational research practitioner;
- the development of a methodology relevant to the use of operational research;
- the supervision and development of operational research competence in others;
- the promotion of operational research in Canada through talks, presentations, articles, books, or by other means.
- service to CORS at either the national or local level.

Please submit nominations by **3 March 2025** to CORS Award of Merit Chair Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi (pastpresident@cors.ca)



ELDON GUNN SERVICE AWARD

Description

The Eldon Gunn Service Award is presented to members of the society who have made outstanding contributions of time and service to the society: at the national or local level, as conference organizers or as editors of CORS publications. Eldon Gunn was a major contributor to the society since the early 1980s and to operational research in Canada since the 1970s. He was one of the first recipients of the Service Award in 1987, after serving on council and acting as conference chair for the 27th annual conference in Halifax in 1985. He went on to serve as president of the society in 1991 and continued his service with passion up until his passing in 2016.

If you know of anyone who has dedicated their time to CORS and who has a longstanding service record, please consider nominating them for the Eldon Gunn Service Award. CORS Council urges all local sections to consider and nominate their best candidates. Nominations should include the candidate's name, activities, positions, and corresponding years of service. The Awards Committee will evaluate the submissions and bring forward potential recipients to Council for approval. Nominees will be evaluated based on a point system. As a guideline, winners should have 2000 or more points. Previous winners are not eligible for additional Service Awards. A list of past recipients can be found on the CORS website.

Please submit nominations by **25 March 2025** to CORS Awards Committee Chair Marco Bijvank (vicepresident@cors.ca)

POINT SYSTEM

Responsibility	Points	Responsibility	Points
CORS Council		Publications	
President	500	Bulletin Editor	200
Vice-President	350	INFOR Editor	350
Secretary	300	INFOR Special Issue	250
Treasurer	300	Others	150
Councillor	250		
Appointed Member	200	Local Council	
Past President	250	President	250
		Vice-President	175
International Conference		Secretary	150
Conference Chair	350	Treasurer	150
Committee Chair	300	Others	100
Committee Member	200	Past President	100
National Conference			
Conference Chair	300		
Committee Chair	250		
Committee Member	200		



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Excellence Award

We are excited to announce the call for nomination for the prestigious EDI Excellence Award presented by CORS. This award recognizes individuals, groups, or initiatives that have demonstrated outstanding commitment and achievements in advancing EDI within CORS.

About the Award: The EDI Excellence Award is designed to honor those who have gone above and beyond to create a more inclusive and equitable environment for all members of our society. We are seeking applicants who have made significant contributions to promoting diversity, ensuring equal opportunities, and fostering an atmosphere of respect and understanding.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to individuals or groups within CORS (nominated or self-nomination).
- Nominees must have made notable contributions to advancing EDI within fields/communities related to CORS.

Award Categories:

Individual/Group Excellence: Recognizing an individual or group of individuals who has shown exceptional dedication to promoting EDI.

Application Guidelines: Interested applicants should submit maximum two-page* application letter that includes the following information:

- Provide detailed description of the nominee's contributions to EDI.
- Highlight specific achievements, initiatives, or strategies employed to foster an inclusive environment.
- Include supporting evidence such as testimonials, impact metrics, and relevant documentation.

Submissions should be concise, focusing on key achievements.

*Proposals written in French will be allowed to submit additional half page, "in support of evidence demonstrating that French documents require approximately 20% more space than similar English documents. (ref: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29300.html>)"

Selection Process: CORS EDI committee will evaluate all applications. Applications will be assessed based on the significance of impact, innovation, sustainability, and collaboration. Award recipients will be notified via email and announced on CORS annual conference.

Recognition: Award recipients will receive a distinguished certificate and 500\$ award honoring their achievement.

Application Deadline: Please submit your applications in PDF format to CORS secretary and EDI chair(s) (secretary@cors.ca, and samira.rahimi@mcgill.ca) by **February 17, 2025** to be considered for this award. Late submissions will not be accepted.



CORS Student Chapter Recognition

Description

Every year, CORS recognizes the contributions of active CORS student chapters in serving the Society through certificates at bronze, silver, or gold levels. These certificates recognize the efforts of the members of the student chapters in promoting operations research in the student membership by organizing events related to the scope of CORS, both at the local and national levels. Awardees will be acknowledged during the annual CORS Conference, and certificates will be awarded to successful chapters.

Eligibility

- Any official student chapter of CORS can apply to receive recognition at the appropriate level.
- The application must be submitted by the President of the local student chapter.

Application deadline: March 31

Application Process

Student chapters submit an application package to the Chair of the Awards Committee of the CORS council: vicepresident@cors.ca

Entry Requirements

The application package must include:

- The names and roles of the executive committee of the student chapter
- The names of all student members of the chapters during the application year
- A copy of any up-to-date chapter documentation (e.g., bylaws)
- A brief report (maximum two pages) outlining the activities held by the student chapter during the application year. Only Chapter activities during the current fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) will be considered.
- A letter of support from the faculty advisor of the student chapter.

Selection Criteria:

The CORS Student Chapter Recognition is non-competitive, and three levels of certificates will be issued to qualifying chapters based on the following criteria:

- **Bronze level:** for demonstration of an active and growing student chapter
- **Silver level:** for continuing contribution to the local chapter through multiple local events per year
- **Gold level:** for exemplary contribution to the local chapter and broader CORS society

Questions? Please contact Eman Almehdawe at Eman.Almehdawe@uregina.ca



CORS Student Member Leadership Award

Description

Every year, CORS recognizes the outstanding service contributions of individual CORS student members to their local student chapter and the Society. This award is a showcase of exemplary dedication to promoting the field of operations research and the CORS society. Awardees will be acknowledged during the Annual CORS Conference.

Eligibility

- Any student member of CORS can be nominated for this award (undergraduate or graduate students or post-doctoral fellows).
- Self-nominations are welcome.
- Previous winners are not eligible.

Nomination deadline: March 31

Nomination Process

Nominations should include the candidate's name, activities, positions, and duration of service. The Awards Committee will evaluate the submissions and bring forward potential recipients to the Council for approval. Nominations outlining the contributions of the student member are sent to the Chair of the Awards Committee of the CORS council: vicepresident@cors.ca

Selection Criteria

Nominees are evaluated based on their contributions to the CORS society and/or local student chapters. Most significant service includes contributions made during their term as a student CORS councillor and/or serving on the executive committee of an active student chapter.

Award:

- The winner receives \$200 and a certificate at the Annual CORS Conference.
- The Awards Committee reserves the right not to name any winners.

Questions? Please contact Eman Almehdawe at Eman.Almehdawe@uregina.ca



CORS COMPETITIONS

PRACTICE PRIZE COMPETITION

Description

The Practice Prize Competition recognizes the outstanding application of OR by practitioners in Canada, and it attracts quality papers to the CORS Annual Conference.

Award

The Prize Committee will determine, at its discretion, First, Second, and Honourable Mention awards and the distribution of up to \$1800 in prize money according to the extent to which the finalists have reported on a completed, practical application with results that had a significant, verifiable, and (preferably) quantifiable impact on the performance of the client organization. Every member of the winning teams receives a certificate.

Eligibility

The applicant must be a resident of Canada. The submission must include work completed over the last two years, but the entire project may have taken place over a longer period. The project may include published work, but it cannot have been previously submitted to this competition.

The Process

By **2 March 2025** applicants must submit electronic copies of the following to the **Chair of the Practice Prize Committee Antoine Legrain** (antoine.legrain@polymtl.ca):

- An abstract, not exceeding 500 words, outlining the successful application of OR.
- A letter from an executive of the client organization attesting that the application had an impact and giving permission for the project to be presented at the CORS Annual Conference.
- The names, titles, phone numbers, and email addresses of all authors and of at least one executive of the client organization.

By **30 March 2025** the judging committee, consisting of three past winners of the Practice Prize, will select up to four finalists according to the following criteria:

- The challenge of the application of OR and the significance of the problem.
- The quality of the analysis and modeling and implementation of the results.
- The impact on the client organization.

By **27 April 2025**, the finalists must:

- Submit a detailed written report, not exceeding 25 pages in the body, presenting a "case history" of the project describing its development from start to finish and focusing on the challenges and results.
- Submit a one-page project summary including key messages and best practices, suitable for publication in the CORS Bulletin and on the CORS website.

Finalists must present the project at the Practice Prize Sessions at the CORS Annual Conference.

Based on the written report and the oral presentation, the judges will determine the prizes to be awarded and announced at the banquet. The committee reserves the right not to award any prize.



STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Application deadline: 24 March 2025

The application process will be confirmed in early February and shared via the CORS Mailing List and on the CORS website here: <https://www.cors.ca/content/student-paper-competition>

All competitors should apply for CORS student funding by the deadline in case they become a finalist at: <https://www.cors.ca/content/graduate-student-funding-attend-cors-conferences>

Open Category Chair: Andre Cire (andre.cire@rotman.utoronto.ca)

Undergraduate Category Chair: Aliaa Alnaggar (aliaa.alnaggar@torontomu.ca)

Description

Each year CORS conducts a student paper competition to recognize the contribution of a paper either directly to the field of operational research through the development of methodology or to another field through the application of operational research. The competition serves to showcase the high quality of OR education in Canada as well as the excellence of the new generation of operational researchers. Prizes are awarded in two categories: Undergraduate and Open.

Requirements

The applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student in a Canadian institution, in an undergraduate, masters, or PhD program during the school year **2024–2025**. Canadians who are studying outside of Canada are also eligible. Papers for which all applicants are undergraduates may be submitted to either category: Open or Undergraduate, but not to both. Papers for which some authors are graduate students must be submitted to the Open category. MBA students (and other specialized master students) must submit to the Open category with their applied projects. Published papers are eligible for the competition only if their initial submission date (for publication) is after the previous year's CORS Annual Conference.

Supervisors and industry partners may appear as coauthors on the paper, but the first authors must be the applicants. The applicants must have made substantial contribution to the project and have written the paper with only minor editorial assistance. If the paper includes such non-student authors, the supervisor should include information about the roles of the various authors when confirming the eligibility of the students.



Entry Requirements

- Abstract of 200 words or less. Author's name, address, phone number, and email address. Make sure the abstract clearly highlights the motivation, contribution, and potential impact of the paper.
- Academic institution and supervisor's name, if applicable.
- Indication of whether the team is planning to attend the CORS Annual Conference if selected as Finalists. Note that papers selected as Finalists must be presented at the conference to further be considered for First Prize or Honourable Mention.
- A PDF copy of the paper:
 - No longer than 35 pages (with minimum 1-inch margins, maximum 34 lines per page, and minimum font size of Times 11) including all figures, tables, appendices, and references.
 - The submitted paper must not contain any information identifying the authors or their institutions.
- An email from the supervisor indicating that the participant is the first author of the paper should be sent to the Competition Chair. Supervisors must agree to be part of the competition's arbitration committee, which requires the evaluation of three competition documents in April. If this is not possible, the supervisor should designate an appropriate alternate member of the committee.
- The same paper can be submitted to multiple CORS paper competitions in the same year. However, it CANNOT be selected as finalist to multiple CORS paper competitions in the same academic year (either SIGs, Undergraduate Category, or Open Category). If a paper is selected as finalist by multiple competition committees, then the student has to decide in which competition the paper remains as finalist.
- Once a paper has been awarded as Winner or Runner Up in any CORS paper competition (either SIGs, Undergraduate Category, or Open Category), the same paper cannot be submitted again to a CORS paper competition.

Selection Criteria

- Contribution of the paper either directly to the field of operational research through the development of methodology or to another field through the application of operational research
- Originality
- Writing style, clarity, organization, and conciseness of the paper

Awards

- Prizes are awarded per paper. Cheques are sent to the first authors (unless otherwise specified), and allocation of prize money is up to the co-authors.
- Open Category: First Prize \$500, Honorable Mention \$100. One award per team.
- Undergraduate Category: First Prize \$200, Honorable Mention \$50. One award per team.
- All papers selected as Finalists receive a certificate.
- If an undergraduate student wins the open competition, no undergraduate prize will be awarded. Honourable mentions will be provided if there is no winner.



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

Stephanie Kelley, Stephanie.kelley@smu.ca
Saint Mary's University
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Analytics>

Energy, Environment, and Sustainability SIG

Fuzhan Nasiri, fuzhan.nasiri@concordia.ca
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

Vahid Sarhangian, sarhangian@mie.utoronto.ca
University of Toronto
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/HCOR>

Queueing and Applied Probability SIG

Amir Rastpour, amir.rastpour@uoit.ca
Ontario Tech University
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Queueing>

Teaching and Learning SIG

Andrea Friars, andrefriars@gmail.com
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

Health Care Operations Research SIG

The Health Care Operations Research ([HCOR](#)) SIG 2025 Student Paper Competition Canadian Operational Research Society ([CORS](#))

Students whose academic research is related to health care are eligible to enter the inaugural [CORS Healthcare SIG Student Paper Competition](#). The applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student in a Canadian institution, in an undergraduate, masters, or PhD program during the 2024-2025 school year. Canadians who are studying outside of Canada are also eligible to enter.

Paper Evaluation and Selection Process

The [CORS HCOR SIG executive committee](#) will select four finalists based on the following criteria: the paper's contribution to the field of healthcare operations and at least one of operational research/management, economics, business analytics, or artificial intelligence, the originality of the methodology, the potential real-world impact on health systems or policy, and the quality of the writing in terms of clarity, coherence, organization, and conciseness.

Entry Requirements

- Author's name, address, academic affiliation, and email address.
- An abstract of 200 words or less. Make sure the abstract clearly highlights the motivation, contribution, and potential impact of the paper.
- A PDF of the paper that does not contain any identifying information and is no longer than 35 pages (minimum 1-inch margins, maximum 34 lines/page, and minimum font size of Times 11) including all figures, tables, appendices, and references.
- An email from the supervisor attesting that the applicant is, indeed, the first author of the article that has been submitted to the student paper competition. Please note that supervisors must agree to be part of the competition's arbitration committee, which requires the evaluation of three competition documents. Failure to complete the reviews on time will result in the automatic disqualification of their student's paper.
- The same paper can be submitted to multiple CORS paper competitions in the same year. However, it cannot be selected as finalist to multiple CORS paper competitions (either SIGs, Undergraduate Category, or Open Category) in the same academic year. If a paper is selected as



finalist by multiple competition committees, the student has to decide in which competition the paper remains as finalist.

- Once a paper has been awarded as Winner or Runner Up in any CORS paper competition (either SIGs, Undergraduate Category, or Open Category), the same paper cannot be submitted again to a CORS paper competition.

The application process will be confirmed in early February and shared via the CORS Mailing List and on the HCOR SIG website. The submission deadline is **March 24, 2025**.

In-Person Presentation and Prize Details

To be eligible for either a first prize or an honorable mention, papers selected as finalists must be presented by the student author. Presentations will take place during this year's [CORS Conference](#), scheduled for June 9 to 11 in Edmonton, Alberta. Each presentation will have a maximum duration of 20 minutes, excluding question-and-answers. Evaluation criteria for the presentations include assessing the professionalism of the presenter, the clarity and coherence of the seminar, the depth of the ideas discussed, the overall effectiveness of the talk, and adherence to the allotted time. Prizes will be awarded to the winning papers, with the money sent to the first author; the allocation of prize money among co-authors is at their discretion.

For this year's competition, there is a \$200 prize for the winner and a \$50 prize for the runner-up.



Queueing and Applied Probability SIG

Upcoming Micro-Event

The CORS Queueing and Applied Probability SIG is hosting a micro-event on **Thursday, February 6, 2025, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM EST**. This online seminar features Professor Peter Taylor from The University of Melbourne, who will discuss the role of physical understanding in matrix-analytic methods. We warmly invite you to join us—register at the following link: <https://forms.gle/34VBQeXCmi3m79299>

CORS 2025 Conference Participation

The SIG will actively participate in the CORS 2025 conference, organizing several sessions on topics related to queueing theory and applied probability. Additionally, the SIG will host a student paper competition—details about both activities will be shared soon.

Annual Conference: CanQueue 2025

Mark your calendars! The SIG's annual conference, CanQueue 2025, will take place in August in London, Ontario. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

Teaching and Learning SIG

Our next submission for the case reviews comes from Ryan Orchard, Associate Professor, Department of Decision Sciences at MacEwan University.

"I have been using the Coastal Shipping for Automobile Distribution (Chandra, Vatsa) case from *Informations Transactions on Education in my Logistics class* (as part of a Supply Chain Major in a Business program) for a number of years. The case has a good logistics problem, in an international setting (India), and is well-written. It also includes data in Excel and requires some modeling but does not require optimization and thus lends well to undergraduate students and/or less-technical applications (e.g., a more general logistics course rather than an MGMTS course). I have developed my own variations of assignments for the students, so that I can do something a little different every term, including a basic total cost analysis as per the case but also some ad hoc tasks like mapping and estimations of lead times under different shipping options. I would be happy to describe these to anyone who is interested."

<https://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/10.1287/ited.2021.0253cs>

<https://pubsonline.informs.org/doi/10.1287/ited.2021.0253ca>

For more information, please reach out to Ryan at orchardr@macewan.ca



Transportation and Logistics SIG

Call for Nominations: Vice-President (President-Elect)

The CORS Transportation and Logistics Special Interest Group (SIG) is excited to announce the call for nominations for the position of **Vice-President (President-Elect)**.

This leadership role provides an excellent opportunity to shape the future direction of our community, foster collaboration, and promote excellence in transportation and logistics research and practice. The elected Vice-President will serve as President-Elect for one term (2 years), followed by assuming the role of President. The responsibilities of the SIG officers are outlined in the [SIG bylaws](#).

We encourage all eligible members of the SIG to consider nominating themselves or others who demonstrate a commitment to advancing the field and supporting our vibrant community. Nominations should include a brief statement outlining the nominee's qualifications and vision for the SIG.

Deadline for nominations: March 1, 2025

Please submit your nominations via email to the current President, Sibel Alumur Alev (sibel.alumur@uwaterloo.ca), and Vice President (President-Elect), Okan Arslan (okan.arslan@hec.ca).

Best regards,

Sibel Alumur Alev

President of the Transportation and Logistics SIG



Gilbert Laporte Student Paper Award 2025 by the Transportation and Logistics Special Interest Group of the Canadian Operational Research Society

This prestigious award acknowledges exceptional scientific contributions to the theory, methodology, and practice of Operational Research (OR) in Transportation and Logistics by an undergraduate, graduate student, or postdoctoral fellow. The award was named in honour of Professor Gilbert Laporte for his outstanding contributions to the development and applications of OR in Transportation and Logistics in Canada and beyond.

Entry Requirements

1. The competition is for the best student paper submitted, published, or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal written on the broad topic of Transportation and Logistics. If the paper is published, the publication date must be in the year 2024 or after.
2. Supervisors and industry partners may appear as coauthors on the paper, but the first author must be the applicant. The applicant must have made substantial contributions to the paper.
3. Each applicant can apply with one paper only.
4. At the time the paper was written, the applicant should have been an undergraduate student, a graduate student, or a postdoctoral fellow at a Canadian university, or a Canadian citizen studying in a university outside of Canada.
5. Papers selected as finalists must be presented in a special session at the annual CORS conference.
6. The same paper can be submitted to multiple CORS paper competitions in the same year. However, it cannot be selected as a finalist in multiple CORS paper competitions in the same academic year (either SIGs, Undergraduate Category, or Open Category). If a paper is selected as a finalist by multiple competition committees, then the student has to decide in which competition the paper remains as a finalist.
7. Once a paper has been awarded as Winner or Runner Up in any CORS paper competition (either SIGs, Undergraduate Category, or Open Category), the same paper cannot be submitted again to a CORS paper competition.

Submission

A cover letter (at most two pages) along with a pdf copy of the paper must be submitted by the application deadline on **March 10, 2025**, to the committee chair Sibel Alumur Alev (sibel.alumur@uwaterloo.ca) with the subject "Gilbert Laporte Student Paper Award Application". The cover letter should at minimum discuss the motivation, the contribution and potential impact of the paper to the fields of transportation, logistics and operations research, and the role of the student in writing the paper. All co-authors must be CC'd in this email.

The jury is composed of Sibel Alumur Alev, Okan Arslan, and Gilbert Laporte.



Selection Criteria

1. Contribution of the paper to the field of transportation and logistics and operations research,
2. The scale of its impact on the transportation and logistics community and the public,
3. The originality of the problem and the methods, and
4. Style, clarity, and organization of the paper.

Awards

- The winners will be announced at the banquet of the Society by one of the jury members.
- The first prize will be awarded \$200 and the honourable mention will receive \$50.
- All papers selected as finalists will receive a certificate.



SECTION AND CHAPTER NEWS

Saskatoon

This seminar was great success.

November 21st, 5:30 - 6:30 pm **Goodspeed Theatre (ESB 18)**

Digital Twin Technology for Integrated Value Chain Planning in the Potash Industry



Alexandre Ouellet
P. Eng., M. Eng
Founder and CEO of SIMWELL

Abstract: Join Alexandre Ouellet, CEO of SimWell.io, as he delves into the power of value chain integrated planning in the potash industry. This session will explore how simulation digital twin technology can optimize the entire value chain—from plant to port—by enhancing coordination, streamlining processes, and maximizing efficiency. Gain insights into how integrated planning can reduce costs, maximize throughput, and deliver a competitive advantage in the global market.

Bio: Alexandre Ouellet is the CEO of SimWell.io, a leading firm specializing in simulation, optimization, and digital twin technology. With extensive experience in deploying advanced simulation solutions across various industries, Alexandre is passionate about leveraging modeling technology to drive innovation and efficiency. His expertise has made him a trusted advisor to organizations around the world seeking to optimize their value chain.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



Montreal

A joint seminar was held with CIRRELT and the CORS Montreal Section with speaker Bissan Ghaddar, Ivey Business School, on January 17, 2025. This seminar was a great success, bringing together enthusiastic participants from CORS and CIRRELT communities. Bissan shared her knowledge on using machine learning techniques to improve the performance of non-linear optimization. Participants can start applying what they learned.

Learning for RLT-based Relaxations for Polynomial Optimization Problems

Abstract:

The use of machine learning techniques to improve the performance of branch-and-bound optimization algorithms is a very active area in the context of mixed integer linear problems, but little has been done for non-linear optimization. To bridge this gap, we develop a learning framework for spatial branching and show its efficacy in the context of the Reformulation-Linearization Technique for polynomial optimization problems. The proposed learning is performed offline, based on instance-specific features and with no computational overhead when solving new instances. Novel graph-based features are introduced, which turn out to play an important role in the learning. Experiments on different benchmark instances from MINLPLib and QPLIB show that the learning-based branching selection and learning-based constraint generation significantly outperform the standard approaches.





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.

<https://site.pheedloop.com/event/cors2025/home>

WWW Conference Listings

CORS: <https://www.cors.ca/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 **May**. Contributions to this issue, especially news on the activities of local sections or CORS members, should be submitted by **25 April 2025** 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 8 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.

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.

EDI Excellence Award to recognize outstanding commitment and achievements in advancing EDI within CORS.

EDI Event Fund to support initiatives that actively promote and celebrate EDI within CORS.

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 using the form found under membership.

Fees: Member \$140; Retired Member \$55; Student Member \$55 (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>

CORS-SCRO

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Toronto – Toronto Student – Hamilton Student – Waterloo Student – Southwest Ontario – Winnipeg – Saskatoon
Alberta Student – Calgary Edmonton – Okanagan Student – Vancouver
<https://www.cors.ca>