



CORS • SCRO

Canadian Operational Research Society

Société canadienne de recherche opérationnelle

The
Bulletin

Volume 58, Number 1 – February 2024
ISSN 0315-1417

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
In This Issue	2
CORS Council	3
Section and Chapter Presidents	3
President's Message	4
2024 CORS Annual Conference	5
EDI Excellence Award: Call for Applicants	6
CORS Diploma	7
Funding Opportunities	7
Traveling Speaker Program	7
Graduate Student Funding: CORS Conference	8
2024–2025 CORS Council: Call for Nominations	9
CORS Awards: Call for Nominations	10
CORS Award of Merit	10
Eldon Gunn Service Award	11
CORS Competitions: Call for Applications	12
Practice Prize Competition	12
Student Paper Competition	13
Special Interest Groups (SIGs)	15
SIG News	16
Section and Chapter News	20
Meetings and Conferences	21
Article: Operational Research: Methods and Applications	22
The Next Issue	23
CORS Policies	23
About CORS	



IN THIS ISSUE

Dear CORS members,

CORS president, Samira Rahimi, kicks things off with a comprehensive and informative update on what council members and committees have been up to lately. In particular, you will find details for the new Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Excellence Award in this bulletin.

Secondly, the conference is quickly approaching, and there's still time to make plans, submit abstracts, and encourage students to attend and apply for funding.

There are four council positions to fill for 2024–2025, so please read through the details and consider nominating someone (or yourself!). There's also still time to nominate an individual or organization for one of the CORS awards.

Lastly, this issue is full of updates from the CORS chapters and special interest groups, including brand new groups, and what to expect from them at the 2024 conference.

Cheers,

Andrea

CORS Council

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President
Councillors

Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi
Anjali Awasthi
Majid Taghavi
Gregory Paradis
Peter Vanberkel
Sibel Alumur Alev (22–24)
Houra Mahmoudzadeh (22–24)
Masoud Chitsaz (23–25)
Saied Samiedaluie (23–25)
Moirra MacNeil
Nadia Lahrichi, Joe Naoum-Sawaya

Student Councillor
Standing Committee Chairs

Standing Committees

Awards
Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity

Anjali Awasthi
Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi
Peter Vanberkel (co-chairs)
Moirra MacNeil, Anjali Awasthi
Nadia Lahrichi
Saied Samiedaluie
Peter Vanberkel
Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi
Anjali Awasthi
Nadia Lahrichi, Fredrik Odegaard
Sibel Alumur Alev, Felipe Rodrigues
Joe Naoum-Sawaya, Andrea Friars
Sibel Alumur Alev
Sibel Alumur Alev, Saied Samiedaluie
Houra Mahmoudzadeh
Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi

Education and Student Affairs
Membership
Past Presidents Advisory Board

Program

Public Relations
Publications

SIG Relations

Ad-Hoc Committees

Practice Prize Competition
Student Paper Competition

Award of Merit

Execution of Accounting System

Financial Planning

Industry

Micro Events

Nominating
Students

Traveling Speaker Program

Antoine Legrain
Andre Ciré (Open)
Fatma Gzara (Undergraduate)
Peter Vanberkel, Taraneh Sowlati
Louis-Martin Rousseau
Jules Comeau, Gregory Paradis
Peter Vanberkel
Gregory Paradis, Peter Vanberkel
Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi
Anjali Awasthi
Masoud Chitsaz
Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi
Majid Taghavi
Houra Mahmoudzadeh, Masoud Chitsaz
Saied Samiedaluie, Sibel Alumur Alev
Peter Vanberkel
Houra Mahmoudzadeh
Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi
Nadia Lahrichi, Moirra MacNeil
Peter Vanberkel

Appointed Positions

INFOR Editor
Bulletin Editor
IFORS Representative

Joe Naoum-Sawaya
Andrea Friars
Majid Taghavi

CORS COUNCIL

CORS Council consists of the officers of the society, four councillors, the immediate past president, and the standing committee chairs. Contact information for council representatives is below. See the CORS website for a complete listing.

President	Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi, McGill University, president@cors.ca
Vice-President	Anjali Awasthi, Concordia University, vicepresident@cors.ca
Secretary	Majid Taghavi, Saint Mary's University, secretary@cors.ca
Treasurer	Gregory Paradis, University of British Columbia, treasurer@cors.ca
Past President	Peter Vanberkel, Dalhousie University, pastpresident@cors.ca
Councillor (2022–2024)	Sibel Alumur Alev, University of Waterloo, sibel.alumur@uwaterloo.ca
Councillor (2022–2024)	Houra Mahmoudzadeh, University of Waterloo, houra.mahmoudzadeh@uwaterloo.ca
Councillor (2023–2025)	Masoud Chitsaz, HEC Montreal, masoud.chitsaz@hec.ca
Councillor (2023–2025)	Saied Samiedaluie, University of Alberta, samiedal@ualberta.ca
Student Councillor	Moira MacNeil, University of Toronto, m.macneil@mail.utoronto.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

Atlantic	Claver Diallo, Dalhousie University, claver.diallo@dal.ca
Quebec & Quebec Student	Irène Abi-Zeid, Université Laval, irene.abi-zeid@osd.ulaval.ca
Montreal	Nadia Lahrichi, Polytechnique Montréal, nadia.lahrichi@polymtl.ca
Ottawa	Dragos Calitoiu, Carleton University, calitoiu@math.carleton.ca
Kingston	Mohan Chaudhry, Royal Military College of Canada, chaudhry-ml@rmc.ca
Toronto	Hassan Anis, University of Toronto, hassan.anis@mail.utoronto.ca
Southwest Ontario	Joe Naoum-Sawaya, Western University, jnaoum-sawaya@ivey.ca
Saskatoon	Hamed Samarghandi, University of Saskatchewan, samarghandi@edwards.usask.ca
Calgary	Marco Bijvank, University of Calgary, secretary@cors.ca
Edmonton	Armann Ingólfsson, University of Alberta, armann.ingolfsson@ualberta.ca
Vancouver	Gregory Paradis, University of British Columbia, 0@01101.io
Waterloo Student	Kiefer Joe Burgess, University of Waterloo, kjburgess@uwaterloo.ca
Montreal Student	Başak Tozlu, Concordia University, basaktozlu@gmail.com
Toronto Student	Moira MacNeil, University of Toronto, m.macneil@mail.utoronto.ca
Hamilton Student	Si Liu, McMaster University, lius278@mcmaster.ca
Okanagan Student	Mohammad Mosaffa, UBC Okanagan, mohammad.mosaffa@ubc.ca



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CORS Members,

Following my previous council update, we successfully held two council meetings, including an in-person meeting in Toronto — marking the second consecutive year that we have had our student council representative in our in-person council meetings to provide a voice for our student members and ensure that the perspectives and insights of our student members are included in our discussions and decision-making processes.

I am pleased to announce that the council has approved the formation of a new Special Interest Group (SIG) focusing on Energy, Environment, and Sustainability which is set to convene its inaugural meeting soon. We now boast 7 SIGs in CORS thanks to Fuzhan Nasiri and Sibel Alumur Alev's efforts.

In alignment with our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), the council has approved the EDI committee as a standing committee. Furthermore, we have initiated the EDI fund and EDI award to recognize and support these values. Nominations are still open for the EDI Award. If you have not yet submitted your candidate for consideration, this is a unique chance to acknowledge and celebrate those who have made significant contributions to equity, diversity, and inclusion in our community.

I have a few administrative updates to share. Our new accounting system is operational and starting April, it will be integrated into our member registration. Thanks to Jules Comeau and Gregory Paradis for their meticulous work on this project. INFOR, our journal, has shown remarkable growth, with article downloads and submissions surging by 20% and 34%, respectively. Stay tuned, as our first 2024 issue goes live shortly and the much-anticipated special issue on "Operations Research and Machine Learning" is set to publish around May, thanks to Joe Naoum-Sawaya for his hard work.

Looking ahead, our annual CORS conference will be held in London, Ontario from June 3–5, 2024. Mark your calendars! Submit your abstract, as the website is now open for submissions, register, and get ready for CORS 2024! There will be exciting events at CORS 2024 including mentorship events for students — designed to connect, inspire, and prepare the bright minds of tomorrow. Special thanks to Councillors Houra Mahmoudzadeh and Moira MacNeil for working with Student Chapter leaders and leading our student outreach initiatives. Moreover, we are offering financial support for students planning to attend CORS 2024. For more details, please visit our website.

Lastly, I encourage you to review the bulletin for important updates regarding open council positions, award nominations, and upcoming competitions. Please have a look and consider how best to engage with CORS/SCRO. Your active participation is invaluable to the vibrancy and success of our society. Stay energized, stay involved, and let's make CORS/SCRO an example of collective brilliance!

Best,

Samira Rahimi





CORS SCRO 2024
65th annual
Canadian Operational Research Society
conference
June 3 - 5th, 2024
London, Ontario
Canada



CORS2024London.ca

www.CORS.ca

Greetings & Salutations!

We hope your academic year 2023–2024 is progressing according to plan and look forward having you share the fruits of your research labour at the 65th Annual CORS Conference, hosted here in London, Ontario, June 3rd to 5th. Registration, Abstract Submission, and Hotel Booking are all open, and we encourage you to complete all three soon. Visit CORS2024London.ca for links and details.

Important dates to keep in mind are:

- 1 March 2024: Abstract Submission Deadline
- 12 April 2024: Last Day to Edit Abstracts, & Presenter Registration Deadline
- 19 April 2024: Early Registration Pricing Ends

The conference will include parallel sessions (spanning 13 clusters), plenary talks, Master Classes, CORS AGM and Section AGMs, and of course social events to celebrate achievements, milestones, and the general highs and lows of the past year.

Warm welcome to London, Ontario, and the 65th annual CORS conference,

Fredrik, Tiffany, and Greg

PS Keep an eye for, share and use hashtag #CORS2024 in your social media.



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Excellence Award: Call for Applicants

We are excited to announce the first call for applicants for the prestigious Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Excellence Award presented by CORS. This award recognizes individuals, groups, or initiatives that have demonstrated outstanding commitment and achievements in advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion 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).
- Applicants must have made notable contributions to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion within CORS.

Award Categories:

Individual/Group Excellence: Recognizing an individual or group of individuals who has shown exceptional dedication to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Application Guidelines:

- Interested applicants should submit maximum two-page* application letter that includes the following information:
 - Provide detailed description of the applicant/group'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 president@cors.ca) by **February 19, 4:00pm EST** to be considered for this award. Late submissions will not be accepted.

EDI Committee
Samira A. Rahimi (Chair)
Peter Vanberkel
Ana-Maria Anaya-Arenas
Moir MacNeil
Anjali Awasthi

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 Peter Vanberkel (pastpresident@cors.ca)



Graduate Student Funding to Attend CORS Conferences

Description

CORS partially funds graduate students attending CORS annual meetings.

Eligibility

The candidate must:

- Be a Student Member of CORS
- Be enrolled in a graduate program in a field related to operational research
- Be 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 and 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 (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 **28 March 2024** to

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



2024–2025 CORS COUNCIL: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

There are four positions to fill for the 2024–2025 CORS Council.

To nominate a CORS member to serve in one of these positions send their name and contact information by **1 March 2024** to Peter Vanberkel (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: www.cors.ca in particular, see the Bylaws and Administrative Handbook documents online at www.cors.ca/?q=content/library

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

Vice President (President Elect)

The Vice President (one-year term) assists the President, participates in special projects and ad-hoc committees through the year, and takes over the role of President at the following Annual General Meeting (AGM). Only those who have served at least one year on Council shall be eligible for the office of Vice President.

Treasurer

The treasurer is responsible for all financial matters of the Society. The treasurer maintains the Society's accounts, handles all disbursements and receipts of funds, provides financial reports to Council and to the members at the AGM, and chairs the Financial Planning Committee. CORS supports the treasurer by making an administrative assistant available to help with some of the administrative activities of the treasurer.

Two Councillors (Two-year term 2024–2026)

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 2024–2025)

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

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 **1 March 2024** to

CORS Award of Merit Chair Peter Vanberkel (pastpresident@cors.ca)

CORS Membership

It's time to renew your CORS membership for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Fees are due by 1 April 2024.

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.

For more information, email members@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 **6 March 2024** to

CORS Awards Committee Chair Anjali Awasthi (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		



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 3 March 2024, applicants must submit electronic copies of the following to the Chair of the Practice Prize Committee Antoine Legrain (antoine.legrain@polymtl.ca):

1. An abstract, not exceeding 500 words, outlining the successful application of OR.
2. 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.
3. The names, titles, phone numbers, and email addresses of all authors and of at least one executive of the client organization.

By 28 March 2024, the judging committee, consisting of three past winners of the Practice Prize, will select up to four finalists according to the following criteria:

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

By 28 April 2024, the finalists must:

1. 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.
2. Submit a one-page project summary including key messages and best practices, suitable for publication in the CORS Bulletin and on the CORS website.
3. 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

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 **2023–2024**. 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.

All competitors should apply for CORS student funding by the deadline in case they become a finalist at

<https://www.cors.ca/?q=content/student-funding>

Application deadline: 25 March 2024

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/?q=content/student-paper-competition#2>

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

Undergraduate Category Chair: Fatma Gzara (spc@cors.ca)



Entry Requirements

1. 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.
2. Academic institution and supervisor's name, if applicable.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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

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

NEW SIG

Energy, Environment, and Sustainability SIG

Fuzhan Nasiri, fuzhan.nasiri@concordia.ca
Concordia University

Forestry SIG

Krishna Teja Malladi, malladi.kt@gmail.com
www.cors.ca/SIG/Forestry

Health Care Operational Research SIG

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

Queueing and Applied Probability SIG

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

Teaching and Learning SIG

Tiffany Bayley, tbayley@ivey.ca
Ivey Business School
www.cors.ca/SIG/Teaching

Transportation and Logistics SIG

Sibel Alumur Alev, sibel.alumur@uwaterloo.ca
University of Waterloo
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 Anjali Awasthi (vicepresident@cors.ca)



SIG NEWS

NEW SIG

Energy, Environment, and Sustainability SIG

In November 2023, Council approved the creation of a Special Interest Group in Energy, Environment, and Sustainability (EES) with 28 founding members. There are plans to create a website, have a first virtual meeting of the members, and elect the officers. We invite other members of the CORS to contact Fuzhan Nasiri (fuzhan.nasiri@concordia.ca) if they're interested in joining this brand-new SIG! The immediate plan is to organize an inaugural special issue and discuss presence at the CORS conference (there is already a session related to topics of this SIG organized at CORS conference).

Queueing and Applied Probability SIG

The CORS Queueing and Applied Probability SIG organized the 2024 Micro-Event from 12–1pm EST on 8 December 2023. Prof. Rouba Ibrahim from University College London presented her recent work "Size-based Scheduling in Service Systems" via Zoom. This micro-event had roughly 50 registrants and 30 participants.

Transportation and Logistics SIG

Special Issue Deadline Extension

We invite researchers to submit their papers to the special issue in *INFOR: Information Systems and Operational Research* dedicated to the founding of the Transportation and Logistics SIG. The special issue is on novel applications and methodologies of operations research in emerging topics in transportation and logistics. The deadline is extended to **1 March 2024**, but the authors are encouraged to submit sooner than the deadline. The current submissions are already being processed, and papers will continue to be reviewed as they are received. More information and the submission link are available here: <https://www.callforpapers.co.uk/infor-transportation-logistics>

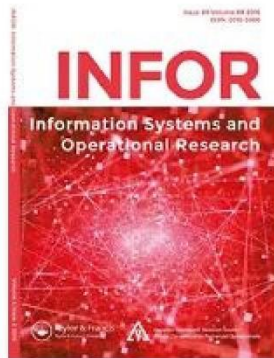


Call for Papers



CORS · SCRO

Canadian Operational Research Society
Société canadienne de recherche opérationnelle



Emerging Topics in Transportation and Logistics

[VIEW JOURNAL & SUBMIT](#)

Guest editors

- **Sibel Alumur Alev**, Department of Management Science, University of Waterloo, Canada
Email: sibel.alumur@uwaterloo.ca
Homepage: <https://uwaterloo.ca/scholar/salumura>
- **Okan Arslan**, Department of Decision Sciences, HEC Montréal, Canada
Homepage: <https://www.hec.ca/en/profs/okan.arslan.html>
- **Maximilian Schiffer**, TUM School of Management, Technical University of Munich, Germany
Homepage: <https://www.osm.wi.tum.de>

Submission deadline: ~~December 31st 2023~~ March 1, 2024

Topics

This special issue is dedicated to exploring novel applications and methodologies of operations research in emerging topics in transportation and logistics” including but not limited to:

- Drones
- Electric vehicles
- Autonomous vehicles
- Crowdsourcing applications (such as ridesharing, crowdshipping)
- Truck platooning
- Online retailing and E-commerce
- Smart warehouse management
- Humanitarian logistics
- Sustainability



Gilbert Laporte Student Paper Award **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 Operations Research (OR) in Transportation and Logistics by an undergraduate, graduate student, or a 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 2022 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.

Submission

A cover letter (at most two pages) along with a pdf copy of the paper must be submitted by the application deadline on **10 March 2024**, to the committee chair Sibel Alumur (sibel.alumur@uwaterloo.ca) with the subject "GL 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, Elena Fernández, 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.



The Health Care Operations Research (HCOR) SIG 2024 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 2023–2024 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. If this is not possible, the supervisor should designate an appropriate alternate member.

Students who submit a paper to Andre Cire (andre.cire@rotman.utoronto.ca), chair of the [CORS Student Paper Competition](#), and whose research is health related, will automatically be considered for the [HCOR](#) competition. Please indicate your intention to enter the competition in the accompanying email. The submission deadline for both competitions is **25 March 2024**.

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 3rd to 5th in London, Ontario. 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.

SECTION & CHAPTER NEWS

The Saskatoon Section held the following in-person and virtual micro-event in December 2023.



December 13, 2023, at 5:00 pm CST
Room 112, Edwards School of Business (main campus), University of Saskatchewan
Zoom (no password needed): <https://tinyurl.com/w746pw7p>

For more information contact:
Kent Kostuk, 306-221-2837 kkostuk@engcomp.ca
Hamed Samarghandi, 306-966-1278 samarghandi@edwards.usask.ca

Quantum Computing: what is it and what will it do for us?



Steven Rayan
Professor
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
University of Saskatchewan

Abstract

Powerful new quantum technologies are attracting significant attention from universities, industry, and governments. Chief amongst these technologies is quantum computing. Quantum computers represent a revolutionary new form of computing that leverages quantum physics, novel mathematical structures, and advanced engineering to achieve results that would be extremely difficult — or even impossible — to obtain through classical computers. In this talk, I will motivate the concept of quantum computing, describe the state of the art, discuss some potential applications, and finally take a peek at what the future may hold in this exciting area.

Biography

Dr. Steven Rayan is a mathematician and mathematical physicist. Before arriving at the University of Saskatchewan in 2016, he earned his doctorate at the Mathematical Institute of the University of Oxford and then held a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto. In his most recent research articles, he has been using algebraic geometry to discover new features of quantum physics, including quantum materials and quantum computing / information. His work in quantum materials has been highlighted in high-profile venues such as *Scientific American*. In the last five years, he has been the recipient of two research awards and two teaching awards at USask. Furthermore, one of his papers in the area of quantum materials was recently a finalist for the prestigious Cozzarelli Prize of the US National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Rayan serves in a few different roles at USask: Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Lead for the new Signature Area of Research in Quantum Innovation, Director of the Centre for Quantum Topology and Its Applications (quanTA), Director of Interdisciplinary Programming in the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and Chair of the Mathematical Physics program. He enjoys these roles and finds tremendous synergy between them. Steven strives to support interdisciplinary, high-risk, high-reward research, and these efforts include serving as a co-chair of the national multidisciplinary review committee for the Tri-Agency's New Frontiers in Research Fund (Exploration Stream) in recent years. Saskatchewan has been an especially inspiring place for Steven to develop his perspective and research. With its tall grasses, pristine lakes, and glimmering sky, this is the right place to think big!



MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Business Meetings

31 May 2023	Meeting #1, Montreal
29 Sep 2023	Meeting #2, Teleconference
24 Nov 2023	Meeting #3, Toronto
26 Jan 2024	Meeting #4, Teleconference
15 Mar 2024	Meeting #5, Teleconference
19 April 2024	Meeting #6, Teleconference, Financial Planning Committee
2 June 2024	Meeting #7, Conference
3 June 2024	Meeting #8, Conference, SIGs, Sections, Chapters
4 June 2024	Meeting #9, Conference, CORS AGM

CORS Annual Conferences

3–5 June 2024	Annual Conference, London, Ont.
---------------	---------------------------------

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

ARTICLE

Operational Research: Methods and Applications

Encyclopedic article edited by Fotios Petropoulos (Professor, University of Bath) and Gilbert Laporte (Professor Emeritus, HEC Montréal, and Professor, University of Bath)

The *Journal of the Operational Research Society (JORS)*, formerly known as *Operational Research Quarterly*, is the leading journal of the Operational Research Society in the United Kingdom. It is the oldest OR journal worldwide, and the year 2024 marks its 75th anniversary. To celebrate this occasion, we have proposed to the editors of JORS to edit an encyclopedic article on the state of the art in operational research, and our offer was warmly accepted. To this end, we have identified the main methodological and application areas to be included, based on topics covered in the major OR journals and scientific conferences. We have also contacted experts in the respective areas who have responded enthusiastically.

The end-product is a 195-page article, including 2,196 references and covering 24 methodological areas as well as 32 fields of application. The article is written by 82 authors representing 79 institutions worldwide.

The methodological areas include the major mathematical programming branches, covering deterministic, dynamic, and stochastic optimization, as well as complexity theory, heuristics, artificial intelligence, risk analysis, decision theory, game theory, data envelopment analysis, systems theory, queueing, simulation, forecasting, soft OR and problem structuring, and behavioral OR.

The application areas include transportation, logistics, location and supply chain management, project management, manufacturing and inventory management, E-commerce, service industries, healthcare, energy and natural resources, environment and sustainability, telecommunications, government and public sector, military and homeland security, finance and revenue management, education, sports, timetabling, and open-source software.

This is an open-source article, due to appear as a stand-alone issue of JORS in March 2024 and can be accessed here: <https://doi.org/10.1080/01605682.2023.2253852>



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 **19 April 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 of a present or past member of CORS to the profession of OR.

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.

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 to the address below.

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

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

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

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

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CORS_President