Editorial

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Goodeve Medal

Details of the 2008 award of the Goodeve Medal appear below in a statement by John Ranyard, our predecessor as editor of this journal, who chaired the ORS Awards Panel and led the shortlisting committee. Congratulations to the authors of this paper. It is good to hear of success for a paper describing strong OR work that benefitted a charity.

As in the previous year, the news of the award gives us the opportunity to mention that there is annually a special opportunity for recognition of authors' work when they publish in *Journal of the Operational Research Society* as their papers will be considered for the prestigious Goodeve Medal. As editors we are always seeking outstanding OR papers that make a strong contribution to the furtherance of OR and provide exemplars of its use. We hope that the extra possibility of winning a medal is something authors will take into account when considering in which OR journal to aim to publish.

Terry Williams and John Wilson (Joint Editors)

Winner of Goodeve Medal 2008

Medina-Borja A, Pasupathy KS and Triantis K (2007). Large-scale data envelopment analysis (DEA) implementation: A strategic performance management approach. *J Opl Res Soc* **58**:1084–1098.

Citation

This paper describes the development and implementation of a data envelopment analysis (DEA)-based performance management system for a major US charity. The system evaluates more than 1000 field unit operations devoted to disaster relief, emergency communications, and life-saving skills training. The work entailed developing an advanced conceptual model for measuring performance in the nonprofit sector. The novel DEA formulation had to account for differences in the operational environment of the field units, and included service quality and effectiveness measures alongside traditional efficiency measures. Finally, the project involved creating a data collection system and report generation tools necessary for the deployment of evaluation results to the field in a user-friendly format for managers. The new system has been running for 3 years and has enabled better benchmarking throughout the organization, the identification of relative inefficiencies and better allocation of resources so as to achieve strategic goals.

There are many theoretical papers on the use of DEA but this is one of very few large-scale implementations that have been incorporated into a real-life decision-making process. This should provide a stimulus for more work in this field. While the suitability of DEA for real-life performance measurement is demonstrated, the challenges of a DEA implementation are also discussed. The approach has applications to other charitable organizations.

Chair of ORS Awards Panel

John C Ranyard