

## From the Editor . . .

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This issue marks the beginning of my term as Editor-in-Chief of *Decision Analysis*. Founding Editors-in-Chief Bob Clemen and Don Kleinmuntz guided us well through the first three years of publication. Beginning now, with our fourth volume, I am introducing a new structure with associate editors and a managing editor. Combined with our existing editorial board, this structure will allow us to better serve the diverse decision analysis community and will position us to manage the growth of our journal. This issue features articles by Hazen on the addition of life goals to health preference models, by Abbas on invariant utility functions, and by van Binsbergen and Marx on relationships between decision analysis and game theory. Also, Hurley analyzes the wisdom of the United States Ryder Cup Captain Curtis Strange's decision to place the top golfers in the last matches of the team golf event.

*Key words:* decision analysis; medical; invariance; risk aversion; utility elicitation; game theory; sports; editorial

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As I begin my term as Editor-in-Chief, I am thankful for the fantastic job that Founding Editors-in-Chief Bob Clemen and Don Kleinmuntz and their editorial board did to create this outstanding journal. I'd like to thank John Little, the first President of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), for his strong encouragement to us in the Decision Analysis Society of INFORMS to found the journal, *Decision Analysis*.

Now that we have launched the journal and are seeing increased submissions and subscriptions, my overarching goal will be to ensure that *Decision Analysis* is the journal of first choice for authors and readers of decision analysis articles.

I have introduced a new associate editor structure. I've appointed Manel Baucells, Kevin McCardle, Gregory Parnell, and Ahti Salo as associate editors, and will continue to add associate editors this year as the submissions grow. I also have appointed an Editorial Board. In addition to serving as advisors and ambassadors for the journal, Editorial Board members will, from time to time, be asked to serve as ad hoc associate editors on papers within their expertise. Our entire editorial team is listed on the inside of the front cover of the journal. All manuscripts should be submitted to me. I will assign papers to associate editors, who will request reviews by referees and make

recommendations to me on editorial decisions. Then, I will communicate the results to authors.

I am pleased to be working with Kelly Kophazi, our new Managing Editor. Kelly has valuable experience as the Managing Editor for *Interfaces*. She has now expanded her managing editor role to add *Decision Analysis* and the *INFORMS Journal on Computing*.

Along with other journals published by INFORMS, *Decision Analysis* is going to be moving, later this year, to the online manuscript submission and review system, Manuscript Central. Kelly and I are setting up the specifications for our journal's system now and will try to ensure the system works well for our authors and reviewers, and has adequate help features. Please check our website (<http://da.pubs.informs.org/>) for the latest manuscript submission instructions. In the transition phase, if you encounter unresolved problems with the system, please contact Kelly.

Our vision for the journal is to serve the needs of both academics and practitioners of decision analysis, as well as potential future decision analysts and users of decision analysis. Our editorial objectives and audience are printed on the inside of the back cover of each issue. I encourage submissions of manuscripts from the wide array of decision research fields. Whenever topics from a broadly related field are aimed for the journal, the focus should be on

potential contributions to prescriptive decision analysis. Such manuscripts should include a discussion of implications of the work for aiding decision making, and a literature review to demonstrate how the manuscript's field relates to the decision analysis literature. I welcome suggestions of potential topics and special editors for special issues.

The first article in this issue is by Gordon B. Hazen on a new model that adds extrinsic life goals to the conventional Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) model of health preferences. In making medical decisions, a person may prefer a treatment that enables attainment of an important life milestone (such as attending a child's wedding) that might also decrease the projected length of quality adjusted lifetime. Hazen provides an axiomatically justified augmentation to the QALY model that will account for such extrinsic goals, thus broadening the model for medical decision analysis to capture the quality of a person's life, rather than just the quality of health.

Our second article is by Ali E. Abbas on invariant utility functions. Abbas defines *invariant utility functions* as functions which are invariant up to continuous monotonic transformations. He next defines *transformation invariance* as the condition in which the certain equivalent of a lottery follows a continuous monotonic transformation that is applied to its outcomes. Then he shows that invariant utility functions uniquely satisfy transformation invariance, and he demonstrates how knowledge of an invariance criterion determines the functional form of the utility function. He provides several specific examples of functional forms.

In our third article, Jules H. van Binsbergen and Leslie Marx provide a general discussion of when a

decision analysis approach is sufficient to deal with strategic interactions, rather than a game theoretic approach. When a decision analysis approach is sufficient, prescriptive decision analysts can use the standard tools of decision trees and sensitivity analysis in such strategic settings. They also make two technical comments on "Configuration of Detection Software: A Comparison of Decision and Game Theory Approaches," by Cavusoglu and Raghunathan (2004), which appeared in the first volume of *Decision Analysis*.

We end with a fun article by W. J. Hurley which analyzes the wisdom of Curtis Strange's decision as the 2002 Ryder Cup captain to put top golfers Davis Love III, Phil Mickelson, and Tiger Woods in the last three singles matches to be played on the final day in the United States-Europe team golf competition. (*Golf trivia question*: True or false: In the 1980's, the Ryder Cup was played every other year in the even-numbered years.)<sup>1</sup> The European team captain, Sam Torrance, took the opposite strategy, placing his best players at the top of his lineup, led by Colin Montgomerie, Sergio Garcia, Darren Clarke, and Bernhard Langer. This paper contributes to the growing literature using operations research methods to discover ways to improve sports decision making, including the paper published earlier in this journal on curling (Willoughby and Kostuk 2005).

## References

- Cavusoglu, H., S. Raghunathan. 2004. Configuration of detection software: A comparison of decision and game theory approaches. *Decision Anal.* 1(3) 131-148.
- Willoughby, K. A., K. J. Kostuk. 2005. An analysis of a strategic decision in the sport of curling. *Decision Anal.* 2(1) 58-63.

<sup>1</sup> *Trivia answer*: False. It was played in odd-numbered years in the 1980's. The planned 2001 competition was postponed to September 2002, following the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States, and is now played in even-numbered years.