



## Operations Research for Health Care

### Note from the Editor

Operations Research has vast potential for use in the design, operation, evaluation and improvement of health services, and the development and adaptation of suitable OR techniques is a vibrant and growing field. However, great OR is not great OR until it is used and, despite the volume of high quality research, it is fair to say that OR has not influenced the delivery of health care as far as it could. From that perspective, the potential of OR in health is largely untapped.

When asked to become editor of *Operations Research for Health Care*, I was excited by the opportunity to shape an international journal that contains not just technically excellent research but research that aims to address the gap between what is possible and what is achieved in Health OR. So, exciting methodological developments will be reported with the potential or proven benefits for health organisations made clear. Additionally, we encourage submissions describing the implementation, use and evaluation of OR techniques in health, including the challenges faced, barriers encountered and the lessons learned in engaging with policy makers, clinicians, managers and other decision makers on the ground.

With the focus of the journal on OR *for* health care, I hope that we will gain readers and contributors working in health and health policy in addition to Operations Researchers in universities, government departments and consultancy firms. In this way, I hope that *Operations Research for Health Care* can make a contribution to the increased use of OR in health and, consequently, a contribution to better health care.

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