Editorial

The current edition of ORiON contains six papers from various authors, and various institutions, covering a wide range of topics in operations research. The first two papers in this edition are invited while the remainder consists of contributed papers. On a personal note, I would like to express my excitement regarding the wide range of topics covered by these papers; I believe that this is indicative of a healthy and active research society in South Africa. Below, I briefly mention the topics covered by these papers in turn.

The first invited paper, by Fabris-Rotelli, Sharp, Tudhope, Van Staden and Venter provides an interesting look at team selection in the sport of swimming; specifically in the context of freestyle relay teams for a masters swimming competition. The second invited paper is by Verster and Kwaramba and presents a Bayesian technique for the estimation of the dependence parameter in bivariate extreme value statistics.

The first of the four contributed papers is by Burke and Searle and it is concerned with the quantitatively modelling of opinion dynamics during elections. Thereafter, Rakotonirainy proposes a framework which can be used to predict the performance of packing algorithms across instance space. The third paper, by Tränkle and Bekker, proposes methods of enhancing the so-called multi-objective optimisation using the cross-entropy method (MOO CEM) algorithm. The final paper is concerned with a column generation approach for product targeting optimisation, specifically for use in the banking industry; this paper is by Van Niekerk and Terblanche.

I would like to thank the authors of the papers for submitting their research to ORiON and the reviewers for their time and effort. Finally, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to Ms Elzanie Bothma, the journal manager, and Mrs Jeanne Marié Coetzee, the typesetter, for all of their efforts in order to make this issue possible.

Jaco Visagie
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