

Introduction to the Workshop

Welcome to the 2008 Operational Research Society Simulation Workshop (SW08)

We are pleased to welcome you to the fourth Simulation Workshop (SW08). This year we are meeting at the Abbey Hotel and Country Club in Worcestershire, which provides an excellent standard of accommodation and conference facilities. We hope that you will enjoy the conference and find the programme stimulating.

This year represents the 50th anniversary of K.D. Tocher's landmark development of the first simulation software: the General Simulation Program (GSP). Our keynote, to be given by Professor Brian Hollocks from Bournemouth University, will commemorate Tocher's contribution to the field. We will also be announcing a new Operational Research Society Award: the 'K.D. Tocher Award'. This will be given biennially to the authors of an outstanding paper in the Journal of Simulation in the previous two years.

The papers at this year's workshop once again reflect much of the current thinking within the discrete-event simulation community. We have 34 papers in 12 sessions on areas of simulation including simulation applications, conceptual modelling, simulation software, comparison of simulation methods, and simulation and system optimisation. A panel discussion on 'simulation optimisation: the best thing since sliced bread?' led by Professor Mike Pidd, is bound to produce a lively debate.

The Journal of Simulation (JOS), which has grown out of the Simulation Workshop, is now into its second volume. So far the journal has published an exciting range of papers with a focus on the practice and application of simulation. OR Society members have free access to JOS on-line (through the OR Society's members enclosure) and you can receive a paper copy for just £8 per year on top of your membership subscription. For those with institutional libraries, do remember to ask the library to subscribe to JOS. We would encourage you all to think about submitting a paper to JOS. Why not revise and extend your SW08 paper for JOS?

Our thanks once again to all the contributors, the sponsors (who have also provided an exhibition of simulation products and services), the stream organisers and reviewers. We also thank those whose hard work have made SW08 possible: Dr Kathy Kotiadis (Programme Chair), Dr Christine Currie (Proceedings Chair), Chris Barrett (Administration) and Cara Quinton (Web).

Stewart Robinson and Simon Taylor
Conference Chairs