## OPERATIONS RESEARCH CENTER

## 2023-2024 Awards & Honors

**Ali Aouad** (Assistant Professor), Abhishek Deshmane (Georgia Institute of Technology), and Victor Martinez-de-Albeniz (IESE Business School) received first place for the 2024 POMS Applied Research Challenge for the paper "Designing Layouts for Sequential Experiences: Application to Cultural Institutions."

**Ali Aouad**, Alp Sungu (London Business School), and Kamalini Ramdas (London Business School) were finalists for the 2024 POMS Applied Research Challenge for the paper "Food Subsidies and Substitution: Experimental Evidence from Indian Micro Retail Panel Data."

https://connect.informs.org/discussion/announcing-the-2024-poms-arc-winners-1

Alp Sungu, **Ali Aouad**, and Kamalini Ramdas were runners-up for the POMS 2023 INFORMS TIMES Best Working Paper Award for the paper "Food Subsidies and Substitution: Experimental Evidence from Indian Micro Retail Panel Data."

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Technology-Innovation-Management-and-Entrepreneurship-Section/Best-Working-Paper

Chiwei Yan, **Cynthia Barnhart** (Provost), and **Vikrant Vaze** (SM '10, Dartmouth) won the INFORMS Aviation Applications Best Paper Award for the paper "Choice-Based Airline Schedule Design and Fleet Assignment: A Decomposition Approach." This award is given at the INFORMS National Meeting to the author of the best paper submitted by a full-time student in the area of aviation applications.

https://msom.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Aviation-Applications/Aviation-Applications-Best-Paper-Award

Amine Bennouna (PhD), Ryan Lucas (PhD), and Bart Van Parys (Assistant Professor) were Runner-ups of INFORMS 2023 Data Mining Best Paper Award (General Track) for the paper "Bridging Robustness and Generalization: Certified Robust Neural Networks."

https://connect.informs.org/data-mining/awards/new-item22275866739965

Amine Bennouna, Ryan Lucas, and Bart Van Parys won the INFORMS 2023 Workshop on Data Science Best Student Paper for the paper "Certified Robust Neural Networks: Generalization and Corruption Resistance." <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/data-science-2023/">https://sites.google.com/view/data-science-2023/</a>

Moïse Blanchard (PhD), Alexandre Jacquillat (Class of 1942 Career Development Associate Professor and Associate Professor of Operations Research and Statistics), and Patrick Jaillet (Dugald C. Jackson Professor of EECS; Codirector, Operations Research Center) won first place in the 2023 INFORMS Transportation (TSL) Best Student Paper Award for the paper "Probabilistic bounds on the k-Traveling Repairman Problem and the k-Traveling Salesman Problem."

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Transportation-Science-and-Logistics-Section/Student-Paper-Prize

**Moïse Blanchard**, **Junhui Zhang**, and **Patrick Jaillet** won the prize for solving a Conference on Learning Theory (COLT) 2019 open problem in memory-constrained optimization at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Learning Theorty (COLT) for the paper "Quadratic Memory is Necessary for Optimal Query Complexity in Convex Optimization: Center-of-Mass is Pareto-Optimal."

**Timothy Chan** (PhD '07, University of Toronto) received the 2023 INFORMS Prize for the Teaching of the OR/MS Practice. The purpose of this award is to recognize a teacher who has succeeded in helping his or her students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective practitioners of operations research or the management sciences.

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/INFORMS-Prizes/Prize-for-the-Teaching-of-the-OR-MS-Practice

**Timothy Chan**, Rafid Mahmood, Deborah O'Connor, Debbie Stone, Sharon Unger, Rachel Wong, and Ian Yihang Zhu won the 2023 Pierskalla Best Paper Award for the paper "Got (Optimal) Milk? Pooling Donations in Human Milk Banks with Machine Learning and Optimization." The Health Applications Society of INFORMS sponsors an annual competition for the Pierskalla Award, which recognizes research excellence in the field of health care management science.

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Health-Applications-Society/Pierskalla-Best-Paper-Award

**Daniel Freund** (Class of 1947 Career Development Assistant Professor and Assistant Professor of Operations Management), Shane G. Henderson, and David B. Shmoys (both at Cornell) have won the 2023 INFORMS MSOM Best OM Paper in Operations Research Award for the paper "Minimizing Multimodular Functions and Allocating Capacity in Bike-Sharing Systems" (Operations Research, 71(5): 2715-2731, 2022). This honor is bestowed every two years and recognizes an outstanding publication, from among those published in the preceding four years in Operations Research, "deemed to have made the most significant contribution to the theory and practice of operations management."

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Manufacturing-and-Service-Operations-Management/Best-OM-Paper-in-Operations-Research-Award

**Negin Golrezaei** (Associate Professor of Operations Management), Vahideh Manshadi (Yale), Jon Schneider (Google Research), and Shreyas Sekar (Univ. of Toronto) have won the 2023 INFORMS Minority Issues Forum (MIF) Paper Competition Award for the paper "Learning Product Rankings Robust to Fake Users" (Operations Research, 71(4): 1171-1196, 2023). The award recognizes outstanding recent (within the past two years) contributions of MIF members in the field of operations research, management science, or information systems.

https://connect.informs.org/minorityissuesforum/awards/papercomp

**Stephen Graves** (Abraham J. Siegel Professor of Management) received the George E. Kimball Medal. The George E. Kimball Medal is awarded for recognition of distinguished service to the Institute and to the profession of operations research and the management sciences. The award is a medallion and a certificate. https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/INFORMS-Prizes/George-E.-Kimball-Medal

**Swati Gupta** (Assistant Professor of Operations Research and Statistics) has received a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for her project entitled "Advancing Equity in Selection Problems Through Bias-Aware Optimization." CAREER Awards are the NSF's "most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization," whose activities "should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research." https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD\_ID=2239824

Shibal Ibrahim (MIT EECS PhD), **Hussein Hazimeh** (PhD '21, Google), and **Rahul Mazumder** (Nanyang Technological University Associate Professor of Operations Research and Statistics), received best student paper award for the paper "Flexible Modeling and Multitask Learning using Differentiable Tree Ensembles" which appeared in KDD 2022, a top conference in data mining.

https://kdd.org/awards/view/2022-sigkdd-best-paper-award-winners

**Hussein Hazimeh** (PhD '21, Google), **Rahul Mazumder**, and Peter Radchenko (Sydney), were recipients of the 2023 INFORMS Computing Society Prize (Honorable Mention) for breakthroughs in the ability to compute sparse statistical estimators at scale in the big data era.

https://connect.informs.org/computing/awards/ics-prize/ics-prize-2022-2026

**Alex Jacquillat** has received the 2023 Transportation Science Paper of the Year Award from the INFORMS Transportation Science and Logistics Society, for the paper "Predictive and Prescriptive Analytics Toward Passenger-Centric Ground Delay Programs."

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Transportation-Science-and-Logistics-Section/Transportation-Science-Journal-Paper-of-the-Year

Alex Jacquillat, Wei Zhang and Kai Wang (both at Tsinghua University) and Shuaian Wang (Hong Kong Polytechnic) won the ICS (INFORMS Computing Society) Harvey J. Greenberg Research Award for the paper "Routing Optimization with Vehicle-Customer Coordination." This award recognizes outstanding research in the area of computation and operations research applications, especially in emerging application fields. <a href="https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/INFORMS-Computing-Society/ICS-Harvey-J.-Greenberg-Research-Award">https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/INFORMS-Computing-Society/ICS-Harvey-J.-Greenberg-Research-Award</a>

**Andrew Lo** (Charles E. and Susan T. Harris Professor; Professor of Finance; Director of the MIT Laboratory for Financial Engineering), Abdullah Alhamdan (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Saudi Arabia), **Zachery M. Halem** (SM '21, Lazard), Irene Hernandez (Gataca), Manish Singh (Cubist Systematic Strategies), and Dennis Whyte (MIT Hitachi America Professor of Engineering and Director of the MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center) were finalists winning a Harry M. Markowitz 2023 Special Distinction Award for the paper "Financing Fusion Energy."

https://joim.com/markowitz-award/

Santiago Balseiro, **Haihao (Sean) Lu** (PhD), Vahab Mirrokni won the INFORMS Revenue Management and Pricing Section Prize for the paper "The Best of Many Worlds: Dual Mirror Descent for Online Allocation Problems," 2023, Operations Research 71 (1): 101-119.

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Revenue-Management-and-Pricing/Section-Prize

**Susan Martonosi** (PhD '05, Harvey Mudd College) received the 2023 WORMS Award for the Advancement of Women in OR/MS. The WORMS Award celebrates and recognizes a person who has contributed significantly to the advancement and recognition of women in the field of Operations Research and the Management Sciences (OR/MS).

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Women-in-OR-MS/WORMS-Award-for-the-Advancement-of-Women-in-OR-MS

Rahul Mazumder (Nanyang Technological University Associate Professor of Operations Research and Statistics), has won the 2023 IISA (International Indian Statistical Association) Early Career Award in Statistics and Data Sciences (ECASDS) in the Theory category. This honor recognizes IISA members in early stages of their careers "for outstanding contributions in the development of theoretical foundations in statistics and data sciences, including but not limited to research in topics of mathematics related to statistics and data sciences, theoretical statistics and theory of machine learning, theoretical computer sciences, probability theory and mathematical studies of algorithms."

https://intindstat.org/recipients

Rahul Mazumder has won the 2024 Leo Breiman Junior Award from the Statistical Learning and Data Science (SLDS) Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA). This award, given every two years, recognizes "outstanding theoretical or methodological contributions to machine learning and/or computational statistics" by a junior SLDS scholar (a senior scholar is also chosen for a Senior Award), "contributions which have made a substantial, sustained impact on the subject and on practical applications." Rahul's award specifically cites his outstanding contributions to optimization methods and their applications to statistical and machine learning problems.

https://community.amstat.org/slds/awards/breiman-award

**Manuel Moran Pelaez** (PhD) received the 2024 MIT Sloan School of Management Graduate Student Council Teaching Award. The Graduate Student Council Teaching Awards are given each year to one professor or teaching assistant from each school, for excellence in teaching a graduate level course. <a href="https://awards.mit.edu/awards/graduate-student-council-teaching-awards">https://awards.mit.edu/awards/graduate-student-council-teaching-awards</a>

**Manuel Moran Pelaez** received the 2024 MIT Outstanding Sloan Teaching Assistant Award. Manuel was a TA for Data, Models, and Decisions; The Analytics of Operations Management; and (for undergraduates) Analytics of Operations Management. Awarded each year to one teaching assistant of the Sloan School of Management for exceptional teaching practices.

**Georgia Perakis** (John C Head III Dean (Interim), MIT Sloan School of Management; William F. Pounds Professor of Operations Research & Statistics and Operations Management; Co-Director, Operations Research Center) received a 2024 Sloan Outstanding Teacher Award.

Georgia Perakis was the Wasserstrom Distinguished Speaker, Northwestern University, May 2024.

**Georgia Perakis,** M. Hu, and X. Chen received Honorable Mention in the 2023 Best Paper published in the M&SOM journal award for the paper "Distribution Free Pricing." <a href="https://pubsonline.informs.org/page/msom/msom-best-paper-award">https://pubsonline.informs.org/page/msom/msom-best-paper-award</a>

Chara Podimata (Assistant Professor of Operations Research and Statistics) received an Amazon Research Award for research related to "Responsible AI through User Incentive-Awareness." <a href="https://www.amazon.science/research-awards/program-updates/99-amazon-research-awards-recipients-announced">https://www.amazon.science/research-awards/program-updates/99-amazon-research-awards-recipients-announced</a>

Alexandria Schmid (PhD) received the MIT Goodwin Medal. Each year, MIT awards the Goodwin Medal to a graduate TA or Instructor (G) who has performed above and beyond the norm, and whose teaching efforts can truly be characterized as "conspicuously effective."

https://oge.mit.edu/community-diversity/awards-recognition/the-goodwin-medal/

David Simchi-Levi (Professor of Engineering Systems) was elected Fellow of the Production and Operations Management Society, 2024. Designation as a POMS Fellow is the most prestigious honor awarded by the Production and Operations Management Society, and is given for life. It is intended to recognize POMS members who have made exceptional intellectual contributions to our profession and Society through their research and teaching.

https://www.poms.org/pomsocietyawards/pomsfellowsaward

David Simchi-Levi was appointed as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in City University of Hong Kong, 2024-2026, in recognition of exceptional academic achievements and dedication to advancing knowledge.

David Simchi-Levi was appointed as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Data and Decision Science Faculty, Technion, Israel, 2023-2026.

David Simchi-Levi gave a Plenary Talk at the 2023 INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona (10/23/23)

David Simchi-Levi gave a Plenary Talk at the 34th Annual Production and Operations Management Society Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota (5/24/24).

Leann Thayaparan (PhD) and Georgia Perakis received an honorary mention for the MSOM Student Paper Competition for the paper "UMotem: Method for Optimizing Over Tree Ensemble Models." https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Manufacturing-and-Service-Operations-Management/MSOM-Student-Paper-Competition

Leann Thayaparan and Georgia Perakis received Second Place in the POMS College of Sustainable Operations Student Paper Competition for the paper "The Role of Driver Behavior in Moving the Electric Grid to Zero Emissions."

https://www.poms.org/colleges/suo/announcements/1713809798

Nikos Trichakis (J.C. Penney Associate Professor of Management and Associate Professor of Operations Management) has received the 2023 Sanjay and Panna Mehrotra Research Excellence Award from the INFORMS Health Applications Society. This award recognizes a mid-career researcher for significant contributions to the practice of health applications through operations research and management science modeling and methodologies. This honor is specifically in recognition of Nikos's body of theoretical and practical work on affecting the national transplantation policy in the U.S.

https://connect.informs.org/healthapplications/awards/sanjay-panna-mehrotra-award

Nikos Trichakis and Dimitris Bertsimas (Associate Dean for Business Analytics, Boeing Leaders for Global Operations Professor of Management, and Professor of Operations Research), Theodore Papalexopoulos (PhD '22), D. Stewart (NYU Langone Health), and J. Alcorn and R. Goff (both of United Network for Organ Sharing), were Runner-Ups for the 2023 INFORMS Pierskalla Best Paper Award, which recognizes research excellence in the field of health care management science for the paper "Reshaping National Organ Allocation Policy."

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Health-Applications-Society/Pierskalla-Best-Paper-Award

Nikos Trichakis, J. Chod (Boston College), G. Tsoukalas (UPenn; BU), H. Aspegren (Meta), and Mark Weber (IBM Research; MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab) were Finalists for the 2023 Management Science Best Paper Award in Operations Management for the paper "On the Financing Benefits of Supply Chain Transparency and Blockchain Adoption." This award recognizes outstanding contributions to operations management among all operations papers published in Management Science over the past three years.

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Manufacturing-and-Service-Operations-Management/Management-Science-Best-Paper-Award-in-Operations-Management

**Nikos Trichakis**, J. Chod (Boston College), and S. A. Yang (LBS) were Finalists for the 2023 MSOM (Manufacturing and Service Operations Management section of INFORMS) iFORM (Interface of Finance, Operations, and Risk Management) SIG (Special Interest Group) Best Paper Award for the paper "Platform Tokenization: Financing, Governance, and Moral Hazard" (Management Science). This award considers publications in all INFORMS journals in the prior three years.

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/Community-Prizes/Manufacturing-and-Service-Operations-Management/MSOM-iFORM-SIG-Best-Paper-Award

**Kimberly Villalobos Carballo** and **Liangyan Na** (PhD '23) were a Finalist of INFORMS Doing Good with Good OR Student Paper Competition.

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/INFORMS-Prizes/Doing-Good-with-Good-OR-Student-Paper-Competition

**Roy Welsch** (Eastman Kodak Leaders for Global Operations Professor of Management) was awarded an Associate Membership in Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society. https://www.sigmaxi.org/

**Cynthia Zeng** (PhD) and **Leonard Boussioux** (PhD '23, University of Washington) received Second Place for the 2024 INFORMS Doing good with good OR student paper competition for the paper "Reducing Air Pollution with Machine Learning." The Doing Good with Good OR - Student Paper Competition is held each year to identify and honor outstanding projects in the field of operations research and the management sciences conducted by a student or student group that have a significant societal impact.

https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/INFORMS-Prizes/Doing-Good-with-Good-OR-Student-Paper-Competition

**Cynthia Zeng** received Honorary Mention for the 2024 Envision the future of computing prize. The Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing (SERC), a cross-cutting initiative within the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing, in collaboration with the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, invites MIT students to envision the future of computing.

https://computing.mit.edu/cross-cutting/social-and-ethical-responsibilities-of-computing/envisioning-the-future-of-computing-prize/

The MIT INFORMS Student Chapter reveived a 2023 INFORMS Student Chapter Annual Cum Laude award. <a href="https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/INFORMS-Prizes/Student-Chapter-Awards">https://www.informs.org/Recognizing-Excellence/INFORMS-Prizes/Student-Chapter-Awards</a>