



## IFORS' Operational Research Hall of Fame

There has been an emphasis in recent years on celebrating, and recording, the history of Operational Research. INFORMS has celebrated 50 years of Operations Research, with lectures and a party at its meeting in San Jose in November 2002, and with a special issue of *Operations Research* (Wein, 2002). The International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special session at its conference in Beijing in August 1999. Its history was subsequently recorded in two articles, (Rand, 2000, 2001). A history of the early years of OR in the UK, commissioned by the Operational Research Society, has recently been published (Kirby, 2003).

In keeping with this spirit of remembering, recording and celebrating, IFORS is pleased to announce the creation of the Operational Research Hall of Fame. The IFORS official journal, *International Transactions in Operational Research* (ITOR), will publish in each issue for the foreseeable future a brief biography of a newly inducted member of the OR Hall of Fame. This gives an opportunity to celebrate the significant contributions made by the OR pioneers and those who have followed in their footsteps. Such contributions may be to methodology, to applications, to the advancement of IFORS or its member societies, to OR in and for developing countries, to teaching and program development, to organization and management of OR, and to the international dissemination of OR knowledge and understanding.

With such a wide-ranging set of criteria, how should the inductees into the Hall of Fame be chosen? Clearly an equally wide-ranging selection panel is required. Accordingly, fifty individuals plus all presidents of IFORS member societies were invited to be members of the selection panel. The fifty individuals consisted of the Administrative Committee of IFORS, the editors and members of the editorial board of ITO, and seven individuals specially selected to provide historical perspective and geographical balance.

Members of the panel were asked to propose 11 names for inclusion in the Hall of Fame. They were given a list of some 40 potential inductees, but it was emphasised that the list could be ignored, or looked at it before or after making a selection. There was no restriction to those on the list. Over 90 individuals were deemed worthy of inclusion in the Hall of Fame by at least one member of the panel.

The "votes" for each individual have been totalled and the first 11 inductees have been determined. Citations are being commissioned, and will appear during 2003 and 2004 in *International Transactions in Operational Research*. Almost all respondents selected one particular individual. He will be the first to be inducted in the OR Hall of Fame in the next issue of ITO.

It is envisaged that this process will continue beyond 2004. In 2004 the selection panel will be asked to choose the next 12 inductees in the light of those already chosen.

It is a great honour to be managing this Hall of Fame on behalf of IFORS; indeed on behalf of the OR community. I am pleased to be able to give the credit for proposing this celebratory project to an ITO editorial board member, Heiner Muller-Merbach, former IFORS President.

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**References**

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