

■ SHAWNEE VICKERY, Feature Editor, Eli Broad Graduate School of Management, Michigan State University

## Decision Sciences Journal Update

Ram Narasimhan, Editor, *Decision Sciences Journal*,  
Michigan State University

It has been nine months since I assumed editorship of the *Decision Sciences* journal. I am happy to report that the journal office is functioning fairly smoothly. I would like to touch on a few issues relating to the journal and pass on some information of interest to the membership.

When I took over as editor, one of my goals was to move as much of the journal submission, review, and communication with authors, reviewers, and associate editors as possible to the web. The Broad Graduate School of Management had committed resources to develop the web-based application. With the help of associate editor Paul Rubin, I developed the specifications for the application. Unfortunately, the individual who had been assigned to develop the web application resigned from the staff of Broad after some of the development work had been completed. The college has not made available his replacement to work on the project. This is an initiative that I think the journal has to pursue and I remain committed to it. With any luck, and contingent on my ability to persuade the administration to allocate appropriate resources, the project should be completed in the next few months. Stay tuned.

The submissions to the journal are running at a steady clip. On the matter of submissions, I would like to reiterate some of the points that I have made in a previous issue of *Decision Line*. The editorial philosophy of the journal will continue to emphasize the development and application of theories and techniques from the decision sciences to organizational decision-making and performance improvement. *In addition to the traditional areas*, high quality articles addressing theory development and strategic issues in operations management, supply chain management, service operations management, and management of technology are encouraged. As such, papers submitted to the journal should expli-

cate clearly the managerial significance of the problem being addressed. It is essential that the papers published in *Decision Sciences* make a demonstrable contribution to the underlying theory and extant literature in specific topic areas being addressed by the papers. Articles that are purely methodological are best submitted to journals that have a methodological orientation. Articles that apply an existing decision methodology must demonstrate clearly the innovative aspects of the specific application being addressed in the paper and how organizational decision-making is improved (i.e., relate it to the managerial significance of the problem being addressed) by the application. Authors of papers of this ilk should also seek to address implications for further developing the methodology, thus making a theoretical contribution. Discussing the managerial significance of the problem should receive more serious attention than a passing mention in the concluding section of the paper. These points are meant to be suggestive; they are not meant to be a blueprint or a list of do's and don'ts.

We in the editorial office are committed to providing excellent service to you as authors. I ask for your help in keeping review times acceptably low. Given the plethora of journals available as outlets for publication, it is imperative that we strive to keep the cycle time for publication decisions low. The editorial office needs your assistance in updating your current areas of interest as reviewers. Would you please let us know the areas in which you would be willing to review papers by e-mailing us at:

[decsci@msu.edu](mailto:decsci@msu.edu).

The "Meet the Editor" session is scheduled for Sunday, November 21, from 2:00-3:00 p.m., in Grand Ballroom B (fifth floor) at the national meeting. Hope to see you there. ■



**Ram Narasimhan,**  
*Eli Broad Graduate School of Management, Michigan State University, is the editor of Decision Sciences Journal. He will host a "Meet the Editor" session at the DSI Annual Meeting in New Orleans on Sunday, November 21,*

*from 2:00-3:00 p.m., in Grand Ballroom B.*

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