

viders, group purchasing organizations, distributors, manufacturers (medical-device, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology companies), healthcare information technology organizations, and insurers. In its most basic form, the health-sector supply chain involves all of the activities and decisions made to move a product from the manufacturer to the patient's bedside. Despite the potential benefits of supply chain integration, the dynamic nature of the health sector may not lend itself to the success of supply chain strategies in other industries. Compared to other industries, the health-sector supply chain's functions and capabilities are more dispersed across intermediaries at different levels in the supply chain, and often involve the delivery of both products and information services.

This Special Topic Forum (STF) focuses on advancing decision-making research in the health-sector supply chain by publishing forward-thinking, rigorous research that stimulates future research on designing and managing healthcare services in today's rapidly changing environment. When considering the unique challenges of the health-sector supply chain, healthcare executives and managers recognize the importance of managing upstream and downstream relationships, and the roles that sourcing, marketing, information technology, operations, distribution, finance, product development, and customer service play in the efficient and effective deployment of the supply chain.

The STF encourages research examining different types of decision problems ranging from strategic to operational that occur in various forms, including inter-organizational, group-based, and technology-enabled. Health-sector research has, and will likely continue to draw from diverse academic disciplines such as operations management, information systems, marketing, strategic management, organizational behavior, technology management, and public policy.

Building on the refocused editorial mission of *Decision Sciences*, this STF

seeks manuscripts utilizing diverse research approaches, such as theoretical, empirical, and analytical research methods. Articles published in this STF must meet *Decision Sciences'* high standards of research rigor and originality, while embracing managerial relevance, not only in the research problem studied, but also in their impact on enhanced decision making. STFs consist of a collection of three to five articles that are published in a regular issue along with other peer-reviewed articles.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Information technology integration within and between organizations
- A data-driven analysis of EMR (electronic medical record) systems
- RFID adoption and implementation in the healthcare sector
- Coordinating product design and supply chain design decisions
- Globalization of the healthcare supply chain and medical tourism
- Managing the demand for episodic healthcare delivery systems
- Development and delivery of personalized healthcare systems
- Regulatory and reimbursement considerations in supply chain management
- Managing product recalls and reverse logistics

- Avian flu pandemic and its implications for supply chain management
- Biosecurity considerations in supply chain design
- The effects of HIPPA on the healthcare delivery system
- A data-driven analysis of the consumer-driven healthcare initiative
- An in-depth data analysis of the hospital cost structure: administrative, fixed, and variable

All submissions must adhere to the format and style guidelines of *Decision Sciences* journal. Manuscripts will be evaluated on the same criteria as regular manuscripts. The evaluation process will be similar to regular paper submissions, except the Associate Editors assigned to the manuscript will be part of the STF Editorial Team.

Manuscript preparation and submission instructions can be found on journal's web site at:

<https://wpcarey.asu.edu/dsjOnline/index.cfm>

In the cover letter, please indicate that your submission is for the Health-Sector Special Topic Forum.

**Submission Deadline: February 1, 2007**

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**CAROL LATTA, Executive Director, Decision Sciences Institute**



**J. P. Shim**, Professor of MIS at Mississippi State University, was recently selected as the recipient of the University's Ralph E. Powe Research Excellence Award, which is reserved for outstanding, nationally recognized, competitive researchers. Dr. Shim is also a recipient of the John Grisham Faculty Excellence Award, and has been named as a Wireless Telecommunication Symposium Fellow. Additionally, he has been a seven-time recipient of the outstanding

faculty award. Dr. Shim has served as the principal investigator for more than \$1.1 million in funded grants from various sources, including the National Science Foundation, and has written over 150 research papers. He has served as the chair for the University Research Initiation Program Committee and Faculty Award Committee, and as a member on numerous university committees, including the University Faculty Research Advisory Committee.

**[jshim@cobiLan.msstate.edu](mailto:jshim@cobiLan.msstate.edu)**