

## **Report on the LANCS Healthcare cluster third meeting**

### **Planning and Scheduling Applications of Operational Research in Healthcare University of Nottingham, January 19, 2010**

The third Healthcare Cluster Workshop under the S&I initiative (LANCS) was held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, the University of Nottingham, January 19, 2010.

The workshop was aimed at broadening participation in the research of the LANCS Healthcare cluster and bringing closer research and practice. Both healthcare practitioners and academics from outside LANCS were drawn into the workshop. In addition, the workshop was jointly organised by Sanja Petrovic, University of Nottingham (LANCS member), and Celia Glass, from City University London. Due to the involvement of health care practitioners it was felt that the duration of the workshop should be limited to one day. However, a dinner organised the evening before the workshop gave an additional time for discussion and networking.

There were 45 participants from 8 universities, NHS, Primary Care Trusts, and Industrial Mathematics Knowledge Transfer Network, and the Smith Institute. The participants list is attached.

There were 12 presentations in total. In addition to presenters from the four LANCS universities (Lancaster, Nottingham, Cardiff and Southampton) there were presenters from four other universities, namely, City University London, Coventry University, University of Leeds, and University of West England. Following the theme of workshop, each of the research projects presented was carried out in collaboration with a healthcare institution. The presentations were grouped into four sessions: Treatment Scheduling; Logistics of Patient flow; Capacity Planning; and Rostering. The titles of the presentations and the names of the presenters are listed in the attached programme. All sessions were chaired by an academic and practitioner. At the end of each session, 15 minutes were allocated for discussion about the main research and applications issues that arouse in the presented research works. In line with the theme of the workshop, presenters successfully highlighted the users' perspective in the projects. Thus, they not only demonstrated the strengths of their particular Operational Research approaches, but also the extent to which they met the actual requirements of the NHS practitioners. Many of the presented projects have been or are currently funded by EPSRC.

Participation of the practitioners was given a high importance in this workshop. The workshop gave exposure of a wider NHS and Department of Health audience to various research projects. It also served as a platform for initiating inter-University research proposals, in line with the EPSRC's remit for LANCS.

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