

31st Annual Conference of POMS, 2021

Plenary Session

Session Chair: Burak Kazaz

Sunday May 2, 10:15am

Plenary Speaker: Chris Tang

Title: Innovative Technology and Operations for Alleviating Poverty through Women's Economic Empowerment

Abstract: Can technology and operations enable the world to achieve various United Nation Sustainable Development Goals? I provide my own perspective on this question by focusing on the issue of gender equality through the lens of "women's economic empowerment" and share some ideas for Operations Management researchers to consider.



Christopher Tang is a Distinguished Professor and the holder of the Edward W. Carter Chair in Business Administration at the UCLA Anderson School of Management. He has published 6 books, 30 book chapters, over 100 online blogs, and over 160 research articles in various leading academic journals such as *Production and Operations Management*. Also, he has published 30 newspaper articles in *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times (UK)*, *Barron's*, *China Daily*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Business Times (Singapore)*, and *The Guardian (UK)*.

Recognized as a well-rounded scholar in global supply chain management, Dr. Tang has received numerous awards for his research, teaching, and service. He was elected as President of Production and Operations Management Society (POMS), and as a lifetime fellow by: (1) the Institute of Operations and Management Sciences (INFORMS), (2) the Production and Operations Management Society (POMS), and (3) the Manufacturing and Service Operations Management Society (MSOM).

Plenary Speaker: Pinar Keskinocak

Title: Infectious Disease Modeling & Informing Decisions

Abstract: Despite significant progress in science and medicine contributing to understanding, prevention, and treatment of infectious diseases, they still pose a significant threat to our health and wellbeing. The decisions about how to allocate a limited set of resources across a variety of public health interventions, particularly to prevent or respond to outbreaks or epidemics, are complex, requiring the consideration of many factors such as geographic or demographic characteristics, infrastructure, population dynamics, compliance/adherence with recommendations, etc. In this presentation we will provide examples on how quantitative methods can be used in projecting the spread of infectious diseases and supporting decisions on public health interventions.



Pinar Keskinocak is the William W. George Chair and Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Georgia Tech. She is also co-founder and director of the *Center for Health and Humanitarian Systems*. Previously, she served as the College of Engineering ADVANCE Professor and as interim associate dean for faculty development and scholarship. Prior to joining Georgia Tech, she worked at IBM T.J. Watson Research Center. She received her Ph.D. in Operations

Research from Carnegie Mellon University, and her M.S. and B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Bilkent University.

Dr. Keskinocak's research focuses on the applications of operations research and management science with societal impact, particularly health and humanitarian applications, supply chain management, and logistics/transportation. Her recent work has addressed infectious disease modeling (including Covid-19, malaria, Guinea worm, pandemic flu), evaluating intervention strategies, and resource allocation; catch-up scheduling for vaccinations; hospital operations management; disaster preparedness and response (e.g., prepositioning inventory); debris management; centralized and decentralized price and lead time decisions. She has worked on projects with companies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and healthcare providers, including American Red Cross, CARE, Carter Center, CDC, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Emory University, and Intel Corporation.

She is an INFORMS Fellow and currently serves on the board as the past-president of INFORMS. Previously she served as the Secretary of INFORMS, a department editor for Operations Research (Policy Modeling and Public Sector area), associate editor for Manufacturing & Service Operations Management, and INFORMS Vice President of Membership and Professional Recognition. She is the co-founder and past-president of INFORMS Section on Public Programs, Service, and Needs, and the president of the INFORMS Health Applications Society. She has served on the editorial boards of several journals, including IIE Transactions, Manufacturing & Service Operations Management, Operations Research, Production and Operations Management, and Service Science.