



Operations Research Society of South Africa



Category I Recognition Award

(To a retired member of ORSSA
for outstanding contributions
over a long period of time)

Hendrik Abraham Kruger

Citation. By Lieschen Venter, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA.

Born on December 18, 1955, in Bothaville, Free State, Hennie Kruger has demonstrated dedication and excellence throughout his academic and professional career. After matriculating in 1973 and completing his military service, he pursued a BSc in Mathematics and Economics in 1978 at Potchefstroom University of Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE), now North-West University (NWU).

Prof Kruger's career is marked by continuous learning and significant contributions. While working full-time, he earned several degrees, including BSc (Hons) in Mathematics (1982), BCom (Hons) in Information Systems (1986), MCom in Information Systems (1989), PhD in Information Systems (1994), MSc in Mathematical Statistics (1999), and MPhil in Philosophy focusing on Complexity Theory (2015).

He began his career at the Department of Water Affairs in Pretoria in 1979 and later joined the University of the Orange Free State (UOFS) in 1980. He also worked for Anglo American's Gold and Uranium Division in Welkom and lectured part-time at Vista University and Technikon Free State.

In 2000, Prof Kruger joined NWU as an associate professor in Computer Science and Information Systems, becoming a full professor in 2010. His research and teaching focus on Decision Support Systems, earning him a National Research Foundation rating since 2010. From 2009 to 2014, he managed the Telkom Centre of Excellence, funding numerous research projects at NWU.

Prof Kruger has served ORSSA in various capacities, including as vice president and president, and chaired the Vaal Triangle Chapter. His leadership was pivotal during his term as the 29th President of ORSSA from 2014 to 2015. He has also edited peer-reviewed proceedings of ORSSA conferences.

Prof Kruger has significantly influenced postgraduate research, supervising multiple theses and dissertations, and contributing extensively to operations research and information systems. His work on Decision Support Systems and his editorial role in the book *Operations Research in South Africa – the first 50 years*, published in 2019, reflect his scholarly contributions.

His ongoing research explores big data and its influence on scientific methodologies, further advancing knowledge in his field. Prof Kruger's contributions were recognized in 2016 when he was named a Fellow of ORSSA, underscoring the exceptional nature of his service and impact on the society and the field.

Prof Hennie Kruger's distinguished career, extensive contributions, and dedicated service to ORSSA make him a highly deserving of the Category I Recognition Award. His academic achievements, leadership roles, and scholarly contributions have significantly advanced the field and inspired many. His recognition with this award honors his outstanding contributions and unwavering commitment to excellence in operations research.

For his lifelong dedication to the advancement of operations research, his leadership in both academic and professional arenas, his mentorship of countless students and researchers, and his unwavering commitment to the ORSSA community, Hendrik Abraham Kruger is, on this 28th day of August 2024, duly awarded the Category I ORSSA Recognition Award. I call on the president to confer the award.