



Fellow of the Operations Research Society of South Africa



Libero Paul Fatti

“Teaching has kept me in touch with the basics of our profession, while research has helped me keep abreast on some of the modern developments.”

Citation. *By Esbeth van Dyk, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA.*

Libero Paul Fatti was born in Uxbridge, England on January 28th, 1944. After matriculating with a first class from St Johns College in Johannesburg in 1961, he studied at the University of the Witwatersrand where he obtained a BSc (Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics) in 1964 and a BSc Hons (Mathematical Statistics) in 1967. In 1968 he obtained his MSc DIC (Statistics and Operations Research) from Imperial College, London and in 1979 his PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand. The topic of his dissertation was “The random effects model in discriminant analysis.”

Paul Fatti was employed by the Statistics Division of the Chamber of Mines Research Laboratories while he studied towards his Honours degree. After obtaining his Masters degree he worked as consultant for the Institute of Operational Research in London. In 1970 he returned to South Africa and joined the Department of Applied Mathematics at the University of the Witwatersrand as lecturer. He later acted as Head of the Division of Statistics and designed the honours programme in Operations Research. From 1981 to 1986 he worked at the National Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences of the CSIR where he headed the Division of Operations Research and Statistics from 1984 to 1986. In 1987 he returned to the University of the Witwatersrand as Head of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science until he retired in 2004. Throughout his career he consulted for numerous companies. He is currently Emeritus Professor and Honorary Research Professor at the School of Statistics and Actuarial Science and the Dental Research Institute of the University of the Witwatersrand.

During his academic career he has co-authored a book, contributed a chapter to a book, published 91 peer-reviewed papers; for one of which he received both the Tom Rozwadowski medal (1981) and the Goodeve Medal (1984). He has also reviewed papers for 19 journals and has presented papers at 22 international and numerous local conferences. In addition, he has supervised 10 PhD and 15 Masters students to completion.

Paul has been a member of ORSSA for many years. In addition to serving on various committees and panels, he has served as Chairman of the Johannesburg Chapter (1979-1980), President (1983-1984), Editor of ORiON (1997-2004) and ORSSA representative on IFORS (since 1993). Paul is also a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and a member of INFORMS and SASA, of which he was president in 1988.

For his numerous contributions to the Operations Research profession in general and in particular at the University of the Witwatersrand and ORSSA over many years, he was duly and unanimously elected Fellow of the Operations Research Society of South Africa in August 2005.