



*Fellow of the Operations Research Society of South Africa*



## **Hendrik Abraham Kruger**

“The methodology of scientific research will be influenced by big data. In the literature, there is already talk of a so-called fourth paradigm, called *data-intensive scientific research*, that will not only change the way of scientific research, but will also change the way people think.”

**Citation.** *By Winnie Pelser, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA.*

Hendrik Abraham Kruger was born on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1955 in the Free State town of Bothaville, where he matriculated in 1973. After performing military service during the period 1974–1975, he enrolled for a BSc degree at the then Potchefstroom University of Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE), now North West University. He obtained this degree in 1978, majoring in Mathematics and Economics.

In 1979, he was employed by the Department of Water Affairs in Pretoria and from 1980 he served as a member of staff at the University of the Orange Free State (UOFS), where he worked in the Information Technology department. During this time, he studied part time at the UOFS, completing a BSc(Hons) in Mathematics in 1982, a BCom(Hons) in Information Systems in 1986 and an MCom in Information Systems in 1989. From 1989, he worked for Anglo American at its Gold and Uranium Division in Welkom. During his stay in Welkom, he studied part time again, this time obtaining a PhD in Information Systems from the PU for CHE in 1994, as well as an MSc in Mathematical Statistics from the UOFS in 1999. While in Welkom, he was also part-time lecturer in Mathematical Statistics at Vista University and the Technikon Free State. He completed his studies by obtaining an MPhil in Philosophy at North-West University in 2015, focussing on Complexity Theory.

His academic career started in 2000 when he was appointed as associate professor at the PU for CHE in their Computer Science and Information Systems subject group. In 2010, he was promoted to the rank of professor. He teaches various undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Computer Science and Information Systems with a focus on Decision Support Systems. His research is focused mainly on Decision Support Systems and he holds a research rating from the National Research Foundation (2010). During the period 2009–2014, he was responsible for the management of the Telkom Centre of Excellence which funds Computer Science research projects on both the Potchefstroom and Mafikeng Campuses, as well as some projects of the Engineering Faculty, of North-West University.

Hennie Kruger is a member of the Statistical Association of South Africa and is also a long-standing member of ORSSA. He has edited two recent peer-reviewed proceedings of the annual ORSSA conferences and has also served for many years as the chair of the Vaal Triangle Chapter of ORSSA. He is currently vice president of ORSSA, in the final year of his four-year cycle as the 29<sup>th</sup> president of our Society, serving during the period 2014–2015. He is also the driving force behind an ongoing initiative to write up the history of our Society over the past close to fifty years.

For his services to operations research in general, his services to ORSSA in particular, and his nurturing of a new generation of operations researchers at North West University over many years, Hendrik Abraham Kruger is duly inducted as Fellow of the Operations Research Society of South Africa on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 2016. I now invite all the Fellows and Honorary Members of our Society to join me in conferring ORSSA Fellowship on Hendrik Abraham Kruger.