



The Operations Research Society of South Africa



Category II Recognition Award

(To a current member of ORSSA for a single, outstanding achievement with respect to the practice of OR on a national level)

Pieter Juriaan de Jongh

Citation. By Hennie Kruger, on behalf of the Executive Committee of ORSSA.

Pieter Juriaan de Jongh was born in Malmesbury on February 20th, 1956. After matriculating with an A-aggregate from Goudini High School in Rawsonville in 1973, he enrolled for further studies at Stellenbosch University. There he obtained a BCom degree in 1976 and a BCom Hons degree in statistics in 1977. He followed this up with an MSc degree in statistics *cum laude* from the University of South Africa in 1982 and a PhD in mathematical statistics from the University of Cape Town in 1985. In 1987 he also completed post-doctoral studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA.

Riaan started his working career in 1980 when he was employed as Chief Scientist at the *Institute for Maritime Technology* (IMT). In 1996 he took up a position as Senior Consultant at Deloitte and Touche Consulting Group, where he was promoted to Manager the following year. Since 1998 he has held the position of full Professor in Business Mathematics and Informatics at the erstwhile Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education. In 2003 he was also appointed Director of the Centre for Business Mathematics and Informatics at the current North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus).

He has authored and co-authored a large number of peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers. For one of these articles, entitled "Risk estimation using the normal inverse Gaussian distribution", he was awarded the Herbert Sichel Medal by the South African Statistical Association in 2005. He was also awarded the Tom Rozwadowski Medal by ORSSA in 1994 and was part of the Deloitte team that won the internationally acclaimed Franz Edelman Award in 1996, awarded by INFORMS. In addition to his duties as Director of the Centre for Business Mathematics and Informatics at North-West University, he has also supervised twenty six MSc students and two PhD students to completion.

Riaan has been a member of ORSSA since the early 1980s. He is also a Fellow of the South African Statistical Association as well as a member of the American Statistical Association. In addition, he is also a member of a number of other national and international societies and has served on various international committees, such as being the South African Regional Director of the Global Association of Risk Professionals during the period 2002–2008 and a council member of the International Society of Business and Industrial Statistics during the period 2008–2013.

As Director of the Centre for Business Mathematics and Informatics at the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University, Riaan played a key role in establishing the unit as a Centre of Excellence within the field of Risk and Business Analytics. Notably for ORSSA, he also established a Business Analytics Programme during 2012 which is strongly focused on operations research. The Centre and the Business Analytics Programme play a prominent and significant role in delivering a large number of scarce-skills graduates entering the job market. For this single, outstanding service to the profession of operations research, Pieter Juriaan de Jongh is, on this 16th day of September 2014, duly awarded a Category II ORSSA Recognition Award. I call on the President to confer the award.