



## ***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)

## ***Libero Paul Fatti***

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

Libero Paul Fatti was born in Uxbridge, England on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1944. After matriculating with a first class from St John's 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 an MSc (Statistics and Operations Research) from Imperial College, London and in 1979 a 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 became 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, where he remained until his retirement 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 in 1981 from ORSSA and the Goodeve Medal in 1984 from the Operational Research Society (in the United Kingdom). He is regularly approached to review papers for journals – he has served more than twenty different operations research and statistics-related journals in this way. He has also read papers at 25 international and numerous local conferences. In addition, he has supervised 10 PhD students and 15 Masters students to completion of their studies.

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 during the period 1979-1980, as President during the period 1983-1984, as Editor-in-Chief of ORiON during the period 1997-2004 and as IFORS representative on the Executive Committee of ORSSA. Paul is a fellow of both the Royal Statistical Society and of ORSSA, as well as a member of the institute for Operations Research and Management Science and the Statistics Association of South Africa, of which he was president in 1988.

For his services to and impact on operations research in general (both locally and abroad), his leading role in the field of statistical analysis and modelling, his services to ORSSA, his role in the international operations research community as well as mentorship to many graduate students at the University of The Witwatersrand over a period of more than 30 years, Libero Paul Fatti is, on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2012, duly awarded a Category I ORSSA Recognition Award.