

Dear Colleagues:

The DSI annual conference is fast approaching and I am looking forward to another stellar conference as we build on the success of last year's virtual conference. Online programs have served us well, however we look forward to returning to an in-person conference experience next year in Houston. This year's conference program team – Sriram Narayanan, Yan Dong, Nitin Joglekar, Kathy McFadden, Marco Sartor, and Stephen Ostrom – as well as Vivian Landrum and Maria Hunt supporting their efforts at the DSI home office, have been working tirelessly to put together an outstanding program of invited and contributed paper sessions, panels, and workshops across research, teaching, and professional development domains. In addition, conference award sessions include Best Paper, Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation, Instructional Innovation, Doctoral Research Showcase, Emerging Markets Showcase, and Regional Best Paper Presentations. Conference events run from Saturday to Saturday, starting with our inaugural Clinical Professor Career Consortium on Saturday November 13, followed by the PhD Student Consortium on Tuesday November 16, and the main conference Wednesday November 17 through Saturday November 20. Altogether, the conference features over 320 sessions for sharing with and learning from your DSI colleagues.

We are excited to have four keynote sessions – one each day of the main conference - that reflect the conference theme of, “Decision Making in Challenging Times – Equity, Inclusion, and Sustainability.” The first keynote is *Commitment to Inclusive Excellence – A University President's Perspective* with University of Houston President Renu Khator, moderated by Bauer College of Business Dean Paul Pavlou. Our second keynote is a *Fireside Chat: Creating a More Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Society: A Corporate Viewpoint* with Danielle Brown, Chief People Officer, and Bernard Coleman, Chief Diversity Officer and Head of Employee Engagement at Gusto, moderated by Sanjay Gupta. For the third keynote, Charles Corbett, Professor of Operations Management and Sustainability, UCLA and IBM Chair in Management, will speak on *The Operations of Well-Being*. Finally, the fourth keynote is *Relevance of Operations Management Research* with Jayashankar Swaminathan, Distinguished Professor of Operations, UNC Chapel Hill. Each promises to be a session you will not want to miss!

The DSI community is also a fun-loving crowd! Be sure to join us at the conference social events to meet and enjoy the company of your DSI colleagues. The Welcome Reception/Happy Hour on Wednesday features a special virtual environment that simulates an in-person reception, allowing attendees to move around the “room” and hold smaller individual or group conversations. For those of you new to DSI, the Member Services committee is hosting a New Member Reception immediately before the Welcome Reception. This event is being held in a “speed dating” format to meet other new and also long-time DSI and Board members. Friday is Trivia Nite, with trivia questions on general topics such as science, geography, entertainment, and music - as well as DSI trivia! We invite attendees to form teams of no more than six people. This will be a live event with prizes. And drop in to the new DSI member virtual lounge, open throughout the conference, to informally connect with other conference attendees.

Fortunately, you do not need to wait until November 2022 for an in-person DSI conference. Our regional conferences will be in-person starting with the Southeast DSI conference in Jacksonville, Florida next February 16-18, followed by the Southwest DSI conference March 2-5 in New Orleans. Western DSI will hold their pandemic-delayed 50th anniversary conference April 5-8 in Waikoloa, Hawaii. The Northeast

DSI conference will be in Newark, NJ April 7-9, during the famous Cherry Blossom Festival. Also in April, for those who still do not wish to travel, Midwest DSI will host an online conference April 8-9. For those who are looking to travel to or within Europe, plan to attend the European DSI conference in Dublin, Ireland May 29-June 1. Submissions for some of these conferences are still open. Please see the DSI website for more information.

I want to thank the many volunteers who make these conferences possible. Program teams are supported by a network of track chairs, session chairs, consortia and award competition coordinators, special interest group (SIG) organizers, and others who ensure the conference sessions and events provide tremendous value to the conference attendees. The volunteers involved in the conference are too numerous to name individually, but I am deeply grateful for the work that each and every one of them does.

Finally, I hope you can join us at the DSI Annual Business Meeting on Friday morning where I will update attendees on DSI activities and answer questions. As always, if you are interested in becoming more involved in DSI, please contact me.

I look forward to seeing everyone virtually in November and in person next year!

Joy M. Field
President