

Dear Colleagues:

It is my honor and pleasure to be writing to you as I begin my term as the 52nd President of Decision Sciences Institute. During the difficult times we have all faced this past year, DSI has continued to move forward under the outstanding stewardship of my predecessor, Vijay Kannan, the DSI board, and the Home Office staff. I am grateful for their efforts that have kept DSI on firm footing in this rapidly changing environment.

Pivoting to an online synchronous conference in 2020 was a challenge, to say the least! But Carmela Di Maura and her program team, along with many volunteers and staff, rose to the occasion and delivered an engaging and enriching experience for conference attendees. The 2021 conference, chaired by Sriram Narayanan, is building on the lessons from 2020, as we continue in an online mode this year. The conference theme, “Decision Making in Challenging Times – Equity, Inclusion, and Sustainability,” focuses on how we, as a decision sciences community, can help to address societal, environmental, and business challenges through our research and teaching to better our world. Adding to the many recent programming innovations, this year will feature the first Clinical Faculty Consortium to further expand our value-added conference offerings to our member base. Please plan to join us in November and be part of the conversation – both at the conference and through our social media channels!

Our U.S. regional and international organizations have been active as well. First, a hearty welcome to our newest chapters in China and Qatar. We look forward to long and productive relationships and hope to strategically add more international chapters in the following years. And in the true spirit of decision sciences, our family of DSI organizations has innovated in response to the pandemic and delivered their own online conferences and webinars in 2021. Congratulations to Northeast DSI, Midwest DSI, and European DSI on their successful conferences and for the hard work that went into moving them online. Also, be sure to check out the webinar recordings from Southeast DSI and Southwest DSI, which can be accessed from the DSI website. You will find a lot of great content for professional development in both research and teaching.

During the past year, DSI collaborated with a communications and marketing organization to conduct a brand analysis. Thank you to the members who participated in the interviews and provided feedback as part of the process. Based on this analysis, we are moving forward with concrete steps to improve our brand positioning and provide even more value to our members. A major part of this initiative is a redesign of our web presence with a new look and feel and enhanced content to even better support the professional needs of our members and their engagement with DSI. Stay tuned for more news on the exciting changes at DSI!

Our journals are a key part of the Institute’s portfolio. We are so fortunate to have editors, Xen Koufteros and Sri Talluri at *Decision Sciences Journal* and Susan Palocsay at *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*, who continue to improve the quality and reputation of the journals. Earlier this year, the DSI Board voted to add *Decision Sciences Insights*, a new professional development journal, to our journal offerings. Kathy Zuckweiler, the founding editor, is busy working to launch the journal, with the first issue due out later this year.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the efforts of members who selflessly volunteer their time and talents to support our conferences and journals and serve on committees, the DSI board, and regional and chapter boards. Especially during these difficult times, the DSI community has pulled together and I am grateful to be part of such a community. To each and every one of you, I extend my profound thanks and appreciation for your efforts to date and for the opportunity to continue to work with you during my term. Although we all have grown accustomed to interacting online, I can't wait to seeing my DSI colleagues and friends in person again at our conferences in 2022.

Joy M. Field
President