

JUDGMENT / DECISION MAKING

J/DM FALL MEETING --

CALL FOR PAPERS. . .

Thanks to the vagaries of the Psychonomic Society, J/DM goes East this year to Boston, known locally as the "Hub of the Universe" (or, for you fans of Cheers, the "Pub of the Universe"). The dates are Sunday, November 24 (approximately 1 P.M. to 6 P.M.) and Monday, November 25 (approximately 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.). Meetings and accommodations will be at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. The rates will be \$62 for a single room and \$78 for a double. John Carroll is handling all local arrangements.

Boston is a dynamic and sophisticated urban center with abundant historical sights, cultural events, and educational and recreational resources. We look forward to a great meeting.

Of course, the quality of the meeting depends more on the program than any other factor. The Program Committee [Eric Johnson (Chair), Max Bazerman, Mike Birnbaum, and John Carroll] is soliciting paper sessions and ideas. Sessions have usually run about 90 minutes and have featured 3-4 speakers plus one or two discussants.

Traditionally there has also been an invited talk with commentaries by a senior researcher who provides a broad perspective on the field and their work. Past speakers have included Ward Edwards, Kenneth Hammond, Clyde Coombs, and Howard Raiffa. The meetings have also featured an invited talk in which a researcher has been asked to talk about their current work. These have included Norman Anderson, Hillel Einhorn, Sarah Lichtenstein, and Daniel Kahneman. Suggestions for candidates for either talk, or for alternative forums would be appreciated. Please send suggestions for speakers and proposals for programs by July 15 to

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT J/DM NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 1, 1985

NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR. . .

The J/DM Newsletter welcomes submissions from individuals and groups. However, we do not publish substantive papers. Book reviews will be published. If you are interested in reviewing books and related materials, please write to the editor.

There are few ground rules for submissions. In order to make the cost of the J/DM Newsletter as low as possible, please submit camera-ready copy. This means that the copy should be typed single-spaced on white 8 1/2 by 11 paper. Please leave good margins--1 inch at the sides and bottom and 2 inches at the top. If possible, use a carbon or film ribbon. Please mail flat--do not fold.

Subscriptions: The current rate for the J/DM Newsletter is \$5.00/year. We are dedicated to keeping the cost at a minimum, but must emphasize that recent increases in postage rates will cause problems unless as many readers as possible pay. Please send your subscription to the editor. If you do not know whether or not your subscription has been paid or is current, check your mailing label. If it has an X, you have not paid; if it has an R, it is time to renew. Subscriptions are available on a calendar year basis only.

Checks should be made payable to the Indiana University Foundation.

Foreign Subscriptions: The cost of foreign subscriptions is necessarily higher than domestic subscriptions. Copies will be sent airmail to foreign addresses for \$7.00 (U. S.) per year if drawn on a U. S. bank. (If payable in U. S. dollars, but not drawn on a U. S. bank, the cost is \$25.00 per year. Note that many foreign banks have accounts with a U. S. bank and draw checks on that account.)

Address Correction: Please check your mailing label carefully. Because the J/DM Newsletter is sent by bulk mail, copies with incorrect addresses or otherwise undeliverable are neither forwarded nor returned. Therefore we have no way of knowing if copies are delivered. Any changes or corrections in addresses should be reported to Gary McClelland. (Address changes may also be sent to the editor with subscription payments.)

Mailing Labels: Some readers may wish to send reprint lists or other material to people listed in the directory. Gary McClelland has agreed to provide sets of mailing labels for \$5.00 to individuals employed by non-profit institutions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT...

Recent Developments in the Psychology of Judgment and Decision Making and Recent Developments in Medical Decision Making, are prepared by Jay J. J. Christensen-Szalanski, and are reprinted from **Medical Decision Making** with the permission of Birkhauser Boston, Inc. **Medical Decision Making** is an international journal of The Society For Medical Decision Making (SMDM) published quarterly by Birkhauser Boston, Inc., 380 Green Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

The journal is devoted to the analysis of decision making as it applies to clinical practice, to the establishment of health care policies, and to the administrations of health care programs. SMDM annual membership dues of \$60.00 (U.S.) includes a journal subscription. For libraries, non-SMDM members, etc., the annual subscription rate is \$88.00 (U.S.). For information concerning SMDM membership or journal subscriptions, contact Lee B. Lusted, M.D., Editor-in-Chief, **Medical Decision Making**, Scripps Clinic & Research Foundation, 10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

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Journal Articles

- BABBOTT D, HALTER WD:** Clinical problem-solving skills of internists trained in the problem-oriented system. *J Med Educ* 58:947-953, 1983. Reports that internists trained in the problem-oriented residency programs achieved PMP scores on their board exam higher than those of the national pool.
- BAKER MT, TAUB HA:** Readability of informed consent forms for research in a Veterans Administration medical center. *JAMA* 250:2646-2648. Assesses the readability of federal consent forms; proposes that federal regulations have made consent forms too difficult for typical volunteers to comprehend.
- BARTLETT EE:** Teaching health education in medical education. Selected perspectives. *Prev Med* 13:100-114, 1984. Examines the role of health education in United States medical education.
- BENNETT MD, APPLGATE WB, CHILTON LA, et al:** Comparison of family medicine and internal medicine. Charges for continuing ambulatory care. *Med Care* 21:830-839, 1983. Reports that charges per encounter in internal medicine were greater than charges in family medicine; demonstrates that the differences in charges between specialties disappear when frequency of encounters and duration of treatment are considered.
- BOGEN KT:** Quantitative risk-benefit analysis in regulatory decision-making. A fundamental problem and an alternative proposal. *J Health Polit Policy Law* 8:120-143, 1983. Suggests that reliance on risk-benefit analysis to determine acceptable levels of public health risk fails to correspond to moral values and legal precedents respecting individual autonomy; recommends an alternative policy which requires regulatory decisions to be justified on grounds of social necessity.
- BRIEN M, HAVERFIELD N, SHANTEAU J:** How Lamaze-prepared expectant parents select obstetricians. *Res Nurs Health* 6:143-150, 1983. Reports that the obstetricians' ability to communicate effectively with patients was the most important factor in parents' selection of physicians; discloses that obstetricians' office nursing staff was more important than obstetricians' fees, medical experience, age and sex in parents' decision.
- CAMPBELL DM:** Why do physicians in neonatal care units differ in their admission thresholds? *Soc Sci Med* 18:365-374, 1984. Reports that admission rate in British hospitals was related to organizational factors like size of hospital, teaching status, and availability of beds, and was unrelated to clinical need.
- CUMMINGS KM, KIRSCHT JP, BECKER MH, et al:** Construct validity comparisons of three methods for measuring patient compliance. *Health Serv Res* 19:103-116, 1984. Reports that nurse ratings of patient compliance were more valid than measures derived from physiological assessments and patient self-report methods.
- DAVIDSON RA, LAUVER D:** Nurse practitioner and physicians roles. Delineation and complementarity of practice. *Res Nurs Health* 7:3-9, 1984. Finds that nurse practitioners identified as highly appropriate roles for them those necessitating psychosocial support and health education, while physicians identified as their appropriate role those situations necessitating management of high risk physical conditions.
- DAVIES BL:** Decision making in prenatal genetic diagnosis. *Iss Health Care Women* 4:69-76, 1983. Evaluates the factors involved in decision making about prenatal genetic diagnosis using a framework derived from the Health Belief Model.
- DAWSON-SAUNDERS B, MAST TA, FINCH WT, et al:** Content knowledge and problem-solving skill in reviewing medical charts. *Med Educ* 18:31-35, 1984. Examines the variable quality of physicians' ability to interpret the medical records of their patients.
- DEVON HA, POWERS MJ:** Health beliefs, adjustment to illness, and control of hypertension. *Res Nurs Health* 7:10-16, 1984. Reports that a person's psychosocial adjustment to illness and not health beliefs affected patient compliance.
- DIEHR P, WOOD RW, BUSHYHEAD J, et al:** Prediction of pneumonia in outpatients with acute cough. A statistical approach. *J Chronic Dis* 37:215-225, 1984. Develops diagnostic rules that predict most pneumonias using only the patients' histories.
- DIETRICH AJ, GOLDBERG H:** Preventive content of adult primary care. Do generalists and subspecialists differ? *Am J Public Health* 74:223-227, 1984.

Concludes that physicians' beliefs and practice habits, and not their degree of specialization, were the major determinants of the quality of preventive care provided.

EECKHOUDT LR, LEBRUN TC, SAILLY J-CL: The informative content of diagnostic tests. An economic analysis. *Soc Sci Med* 18:873-880, 1984. Presents a simple algebraic expression of the informative value of a test that takes into account economic parameters.

EPSTEIN AM, KROCK SJ, MCNEIL BJ: Office laboratory tests. Perceptions of profitability. *Med Care* 22:160-166, 1984. Determines that average estimated profit for different tests varied sixfold; suggests that reforms of existing fee schedules should be selective by test and type of insurance coverage.

EPSTEIN L, TAMIR A: Health-related behavior of adolescents. Change over time. *J Adolesc Health Care* 5:91-95, 1984. Shows that smoking, use of drugs and alcohol was related to dropping out from secondary schools; discusses the possibility of developing a model of adolescent risk behavior.

ERAKER SA, KIRSCHT JP, BECKER MH: Understanding and improving patient compliance. *Ann Intern Med* 100:258-268, 1984. Describes a model to predict compliance behavior that combines decision analysis, behavioral decision theory, and health beliefs.

EVERETT GD, CHANG P-F, DEBLOIS CS, et al: A comparative study of laboratory utilization behavior of "on-service" and "off-service" housestaff physicians. *Med Care* 21:1187-1191, 1983. Reports that physicians who were required to train in a second specialty as part of their own training delivered less costly and equal quality care than physicians trained only in the second specialty.

FAYERS PM, JONES DR: Measuring and analyzing quality of life in cancer clinical trials. A review. *Stat Med* 2:429-446, 1983. Assesses the different methods used to analyze quality of life data.

FEATHERSTONE HJ, BEITMAN BD, IRBY DM: Distorted learning from unusual medical anecdotes. *Med Educ* 18:155-158, 1984. Discusses the problems that can arise when physicians rely on anecdotes when managing patient care.

FINEBERG HV, SCADDEN D, GOLDMAN L: Care of patients with a low probability of acute myocardial infarction. Cost effectiveness of alternatives to coronary-care-unit admission. *N Engl J Med* 310:1301-1307, 1984. Concludes that many patients who have a low risk of acute myocardial infarction would be appropriate candidates for admission to an intermediate-care unit.

FLOMENBAUM N, GOLDFRANK L: Diagnostic testing in the emergency department. *Top Emerg Med* 5:1-8, 1983. Discusses the cost effectiveness and medical-legal issues of routine diagnostic tests and procedures in the emergency room.

FREEDMAN LS, LOWE D, MACASKILL P: Stopping rules for clinical trials. *Stat Med* 2:167-174, 1983. Provides a method of formulating rules to determine when to stop enrolling patients in clinical trials that incorporates opinion on what difference is clinically important.

FRIEDLANDER ML, KAUL TJ, STIMEL CA: Abortion. Predicting the complexity of the decision-making process. *Women Health* 9:43-54, 1984. Reports that concern for personal health was associated with contraceptive behavior but not to the decision to have an abortion; suggests that the prevention of unwanted pregnancy and the abortion decision are independent processes, both of which are affected by common factors but in opposite directions.

GALE J, MARSDEN P: The role and the routine clinical history. *Med Educ* 18:96-100, 1984. Shows that students and physicians conduct the clinical interview according to the demands of their own interpretation of the clinical information as it is gathered, and the requirements of the routine format.

GIVEN CW, GIVEN BA, GALLIN RS, et al: Development of scales to measure beliefs of diabetic patients. *Res Nurs Health* 6:127-141, 1983. Critiques different measures of health beliefs.

GREER S: The psychological dimension in cancer treatment. *Soc Sci Med* 18:345-349, 1984. Proposes that measures of psychosocial adjustment should be included in clinical trials to enable clinicians to consider the quality of the life when making decisions regarding cancer therapy.

GUZICK DS, DAIKOKU NH, KALTREIDER DF: Predictability of pregnancy outcome in preterm delivery. *Obstet Gynecol* 63:645-650, 1984. Concludes that the use of multivariate analyses of pregnancy outcome as a predictive, risk-classification technique has limited value.

HART G: Predictive value of serologic tests. *Am J Public Health* 73:1288-1292, 1983. Outlines factors that influence the positive predictive value of serologic tests.

JAMES DH JR, ACKERMAN TF: Patterns of primary care that create dependency. *Am J Dis Child* 138:530-535, 1984. Describes and demonstrates dependency-induced practices that can be easily manipulated by patients; questions the value of providing free-services, following up on missed appointments, and making arrangements for families with outside agencies.

JAY MS, DURANT RH, SHOFFITT T, et al: Effect of peer counselors on adolescent compliance in use of oral contraceptives. *Pediatrics* 73:126-131, 1984. Demonstrates that compliance by adolescents improved when counseled by a peer rather than by a nurse.

KAPP MB: Placebo therapy and the law. Prescribe with care. *Am J Law Med* 8:371-405, 1983. Explores the legal and ethical ramifications of placebo prescription; concludes that, under certain circumstances, the use of placebos is ethically and legally justified.

KATZ J: Why physicians don't disclose uncertainty. *Hastings Cent Rep* 14:35-44, February 1984. Examines why physicians may conduct their practice as though uncertainty does not exist.

KAUFMANN CL: Informed consent and patient decision making. Two decades of research. *Soc Sci Med* 17:1657-1664, 1983. Traces the development of research literature on patient decision making and informed consent.

LARSON AG, MARCER D: The who and why of pain. Analysis by social class. *Br Med J* 288:883-886, 1984. Fails to find any difference among different social classes' perception of pain, anxiety, and depression.

LENOW JL: The fetus as a patient. Emerging rights as a person? *Am J Law Med* 9:1-29, 1983. Identifies potential medicolegal conflicts that may arise as fetal surgery becomes an accepted medical practice.

LEWIS CE, LEWIS MA: Peer pressure and risk-taking behaviors in children. *Am J Public Health* 74:580-584, 1984. Reports that 50 percent of the challenges that adolescents received from their peers encouraged problem behaviors that placed the adolescents (or others) at risk for personal injury, or for the potential development of habits hazardous to their health.

LLEWELLYN-THOMAS H, SUTHERLAND HJ, TIBSHIRANI R, et al: Describing health states. Methodologic issues in obtaining values for health states. *Med Care* 22:543-552, 1984. Indicates that there is a need to examine systematically the process of obtaining quantitative values of health states before reliance can be placed upon the results.

MACHIN D, DENNIS NR, TIPPETT PA, et al: On the standard error of the probability of a particular diagnosis. *Stat Med* 2:87-93, 1983. Provides approximate standard errors of measures used to determine the probability of a particular diagnosis.

MACKINNON JR: Health professionals' patterns of communication. Cross-purpose or problem solving? *J Allied Health* 13:3-12, 1984. Reports that the communication between parents of handicapped children with physicians and allied health professionals tended to be noninterpersonal and non-goal oriented.

MANU P, RUNGE LA, LEE JY, et al: Judged frequency of complications after invasive diagnostic procedures. Systematic biases of a physician population. *Med Care* 22:366-370, 1984. Presents evidence that physicians overestimate the incidence of complications associated with high-risk invasive diagnostic tests.

MARCY SA, BROWN JS, DANIELSON R: Contraceptive use by adolescent females in relation to knowledge, and to time and method of contraceptive counseling. *Res Nurs Health* 6:175-182, 1983. Reports that sexually active adolescents were no more likely to accept contraceptive counselling at the time of a negative pregnancy test than at a routine medical visit, and did not subsequently become more effective users of contraceptives.

MARQUIS MS: Consumers' knowledge about their health insurance coverage. *Health Care Financ Rev* 5:65-80, 1983. Discovers that most families understand insurance policies that specify one or two parameters in their benefit provisions, but do not understand more complex payment structures unless provided with increased exposure to the insurance information.

MARQUIS MS, DAVIES AR, WARE JE JR: Patient satisfaction and change in medical care provider. A longitudinal study. *Med Care* 21:821-829, 1983. Identifies a linear relationship between patient satisfaction and provider continuity.

MCDONALD CJ, HUI SL, SMITH DM, et al: Reminders to physicians from an introspective computer medical record. A two-year randomized trial. *Ann Intern Med* 100:130-138, 1984. Reports that computer-generated reminders affected physicians' behavior and delivery of preventive care.

MCDONALD CJ, MAZZUCA SA, MCCABE GP JR: How much of the placebo 'effect' is really statistical regression? *Stat Med* 2:417-427, 1983. Argues that most improvements attributed to the placebo effect are actually instances of statistical regression.

MERKEL WT: Physician perception of patient satisfaction. Do doctors know which patients are satisfied? *Med Care* 22:453-459, 1984. Finds no significant relationship between actual patient satisfaction and physician perception of patient satisfaction; suggests that high-technology medicine and the traditional, passive patient role may interfere with physicians' ability to make accurate assessments of patient response to care.

NORTHRUP DE, MOORE-WEST M, SKIPPER B, et al: Characteristics of clinical information-searching. Investigation using critical incident technique. *J Med Educ* 58:873-881, 1983. Reports that physicians relied on their personal libraries and information sources which were physically convenient when searching for information.

O'DOWD TC, SMAIL JE, WEST RR: Clinical judgment in the diagnosis and management of frequency and dysuria in general practice. *Br Med J* 288:1347-1349, 1984. Reports that physicians managing women with urethral syndrome and conventional urinary tract infections were able to predict correctly the diagnosis before the report of the urine test was available.

PADILLA GV, PRESANT C, GRANT MM, et al: Quality of life index for patients with cancer. *Res Nurs Health* 6:117-126, 1983. Develops an instrument for measuring the quality of life of cancer patients.

PERCUS OE, PERCUS JK: Modified Bayes technique in sequential clinical trials. *Comput Biomed Res* 14:127-134, 1984. Presents a method to optimize the treatment of a population by two drugs of unknown efficacy.

RAND CS, EMMONS C-A, JOHNSON JWC: The effect of an educational intervention on the rate of neonatal circumcision. *Obstet Gynecol* 62:64-67, 1983. Reports on a verbal educational intervention that reduced the rate of circumcision.

RICHARDSON DK, GABBE SG, WIND Y: Decision analysis of high-risk patient referral. *Obstet Gynecol* 63:496-501, 1984. Concludes that obstetricians' decision to refer high-risk patients is based predominantly on medical factors; identifies unaccountable differences among the physicians' weights placed on some factors.

ROOS NP: Hysterectomy. Variations in rates among small areas and across physicians' practices. *Am J Public Health* 74:327-335, 1984. Reports that patients in high rate areas are more likely to have hysterectomy-prone surgeons as their primary physicians; suggests that rather than medical need, a combination of patient and physician characteristics may explain much of the variation in hysterectomy rates.

ROSENBERG DA, SILVER HK: Medical student abuse. An unnecessary and preventable cause of stress. *JAMA* 251:739-742, 1984. Surveys physicians, students, and deans about teachers' abuse of medical students.

ROSENBLATT RA, MOSCOVICE IS: The physician as gatekeeper. Determinants of physicians' hospitalization rates. *Med Care* 22:150-159, 1984. Demonstrates that a substantial proportion of all hospitalizations are discretionary, and that changes in practice organization or hospital occupancy rates will affect the rate of hospital use.

ROTHERT ML, ROVNER DR, ELSTEIN AS, et al: Differences in medical referral decisions for obesity among family practitioners, general internists, and gynecologists. *Med Care* 22:42-55, 1984. Reports that referrals are not perceived as medically beneficial, but are responses to patient pressure or physicians' desire to transfer responsibility for management.

SAHLER OJZ, COLGAN MT, HOEKELMAN RA: A comparison of two methods of introducing medical students to pediatric clinical evaluation. *J Med Educ* 59:112-117, 1984. States that history-taking and physical examination techniques can be taught through a combination of audiovisual materials and limited bedside teaching sessions as effectively as a preceptor-type model of instruction.

SCHACHTEL BP, FILLINGIM JM, BEITER DJ, et al: Subjective and objective features of sore throat. *Arch Intern Med* 144:497-500, 1984. Reports that subjective and objective measures of sore throat pain were highly correlated, but neither was predictive of the cause of pharyngitis.

SHAPIRO MF, LEHMAN AF, GREENFIELD S: Biases in the laboratory diagnosis of depression in medical practice. *Arch Intern Med* 143:2085-2088, 1983. Investigates three aspects of subject selection in study populations that have important implications on the ability to generalize a new diagnostic test from one population to another.

SIMS PD, CABRAL D, DALEY W, et al: The incentive plan. An approach for modification of physician behavior. *Am J Public Health* 74:150-152, 1984. Shows that a monetary reimbursement to physicians for reducing hospital stay of patients can reduce the patients' average length of stay.

SOX HC JR, MARTON KI, HIGGINS MC, et al: Tutored videotape-instruction in clinical decision-making. *J Med Educ* 59:188-195, 1984. Describes the use of tutored videotape-instruction in teaching clinical decision-making.

STEIN REK, JESSOP DJ: Relationship between health status and psychological adjustment among children with chronic conditions. *Pediatrics* 73:169-174, 1984. Finds little relationship between children's psychological adjustment and traditional morbidity measures, but a significant relationship between psychological adjustment and school absenteeism and functional status.

SUSSMAN E, GOODWIN P, ROSEN H: Administrative change and diagnostic test use. The effect of eliminating standing orders. *Med Care* 22:569-572, 1984. Shows that eliminating the practice of writing a single order for tests to be performed on a daily basis until an order to stop the testing is written does not alter test use.

TAYLOR KM, MARGOLESE RG, SOSKOLNE CL: Physicians' reasons for not entering eligible patients in a randomized clinical trial of surgery for breast cancer. *N Engl J Med* 310:1363-1367, 1984. Identifies several reasons offered by physicians for not entering all eligible patients into a clinical trial.

TUCKETT D, WILLIAMS A: Approaches to the measurement of explanation and information-giving in medical consultations. A review of empirical studies. *Soc Sci Med* 18:571-580, 1984. Concludes that little is known about

Essays

the causes and consequences of information exchanged in medical consultations.

VICKERY DM, KALMER H, LOWRY D, et al: Effect of a self-care education program on medical visits. *JAMA* 250:2952-2956, 1983. Demonstrates that self-care education programs reduced the total medical visits; shows that written communication emphasizing personal decision making about the use of medical care and nurse counseling sessions are attractive to "high utilizers" but a telephone information service is not.

VOGT TM: Medical care and the costs of smoking. *Public Health Rev* 21:121-133, 1983. Reviews the various estimates of direct and indirect costs associated with smoking and discusses why there is a substantial variation in those estimates.

WELLS KB, WARE JE JR, LEWIS CE: Physicians' practices in counseling patients about health habits. *Med Care* 22:240-246, 1984. Tests a model of physicians' behavior in counseling patients about health risks.

WELLS KB, WARE JE JR, LEWIS CE: Physicians' attitudes in counseling patients about smoking. *Med Care* 22:360-365, 1984. Tests a model of physicians' attitudes toward counseling patients about their smoking habits.

WEYRAUCH KF: The decision to see the physician. A clinical investigation. *J Fam Pract* 18:265-272, 1984. Presents an empirically based taxonomy of reasons for the decision to see a physician.

WILLIAMS SV, EISENBERG JM, KITZ DS, et al: Teaching cost-effective diagnostic test use to medical students. *Med Care* 22:535-542, 1984. Reports that a program designed to teach students how to order diagnostic tests in a cost-effective manner had no discernible effect on students' knowledge, attitudes, or simulated test-ordering behavior.

WINICKOFF RN, COLTIN KL, MORGAN MM, et al: Improving physician performance through peer comparison feedback. *Med Care* 22:527-534, 1984. Examines the effect of different feedback programs on physicians' performance in colorectal cancer screening.

ZAKAY D, WOOLER S: Time pressure, training and decision effectiveness. *Ergonomics* 27:273-284, 1984. Reports that training on the use of multi-attribute decision processes improved decision making under no time pressure conditions, but not under time pressure conditions.

ZUCKERMAN DM, KASL SV, OSTFELD, AM: Psychosocial predictors of mortality among the elderly poor. *Am J Epidemiol* 119:410-423, 1984. Concludes that a person's religiousness, happiness (as assessed by interviewer), and presence of living offspring were predictors of lower mortality rates among the elderly poor.

BERGMAN DA, PANTELL RH: The art and science of medical decision making. *J Pediatr* 104:649-656, 1984. Discusses when decision support systems can and cannot enhance intuitively derived decisions.

DUBOVSKY SL, SCHRIER RW: The mystique of medical training. Is teaching perfection in medical house-staff training a reasonable goal or a precursor of low self-esteem? *JAMA* 250:3057-3058, 1983. Explores possible outcomes of striving to be infallible clinicians.

FESSEL WJ: The nature of illness and diagnosis. *Am J Med* 75:555-560, 1983. Challenges the dictum that treatment be based whenever possible on definitive diagnosis; contradicts the theory that illness has unitary causation.

GUTHEIL TG, APPELBAUM PS: Substituted judgment. Best interests in disguise. *Hastings Cent Rep* 13:8-11, June 1983. Examines the theoretical bases and clinical applicability of having a guardian decide vicariously what the ward would decide if the ward were competent.

ISBISTER JP: Clinching the diagnosis. What would Osler say today? *Pathology* 15:361-363, 1983. Discusses the effect of advances in medical science on the clinician's reliance on his or her clinical skills.

REUBEN DB: Learning diagnostic restraint. *N Engl J Med* 310:591-593, 1984. Criticizes the "desire to know" a diagnosis with certainty; proposes guidelines in the use of diagnostic tests when diagnostic evaluation has progressed beyond the capabilities of treatment intervention.

ROEMER MI: The value of medical care for health promotion. *Am J Public Health* 74:243-248, 1984. States that the benefits of medical care in extending life expectancy over recent decades have often been overlooked; calls for an integration of medical care and prevention for the benefit of both strategies.

SCHNABEL TG: Is medicine still an art? *N Engl J Med* 309:1258-1261, 1983. Considers the effects of technology and computers on the provision of personalized medical care.

SMALL RD, SCHOR SS: Bayesian and non-Bayesian methods of inference. *Ann Intern Med* 99:857-859, 1983. Comments on the limits and use of different statistical approaches in conducting research.

STRAIN JE: The decision to forgo life-sustaining treatment for seriously ill newborns. *Pediatrics* 72:572-573, 1983. Calls for the establishment of criteria to provide the framework for decision making in the care of critically ill patients.

WONG ET, LINCOLN TL: Ready! Fire! . . . Aim! An inquiry into laboratory test ordering. *JAMA* 250:2510-2513, 1984. Proposes the construction of clinically appropriate algorithms for diagnostic testing to replace folkloric protocols; discusses its importance in clinical pathology.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS. . .Society of Medical Decision Making, October 21-23, 1985.

The 7th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making will be at the Asilomar Conference Center (on the Monterey Peninsula) in Pacific Grove, California. In addition to the plenary abstract presentation sessions, there will be two symposia dealing with the relationship of medical decision analysis to two related areas: Health Policy and Clinical Epidemiology.

On the day prior to the meeting, two short courses in decision analysis will be offered: a basic course for beginners in the field, and an advanced course aimed at teaching practicing decision-analysts a practical approach to operationalizing the subject. The advanced course will cover topics such as Markov Chains and DEALE, and will break into smaller tutorials called "tree clinics" to review participants' previous problem trees.

Information about the meeting may be obtained from The Society for Medical Decision Making, Administrative Office, Ruth M. McDevitt, Mail Location 577, University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH 45267. (513) 872-4282.

USC Audit Judgment Symposium, February 18-19, 1986

The Center for Accounting Research at the University of Southern California, in conjunction with the Social Science Research Institute will sponsor a Symposium on Expert Systems and Auditor Judgment at USC. Those interested in the symposium should send a copy of an abstract or paper to Theodore J. Mock by October 31, 1985. Paper or abstracts are welcome from faculty, Ph.D. students, or practitioners who are doing research on the application of expert systems to auditing. For further information please contact Professors Theodore Mock, Gary Holstrum, or Paul Watkins at (213) 743-8727.

Symposium on Designing and Systems, April 1-4, 1986

The Symposium on Designing and Systems will be held at the 8th European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research, Vienna.

The Symposium offers people involved in design methodology, design research, design science, design studies, design education and systems approaches to design activity the opportunity to get together and review key issues of design theory and practice in the light of general systems methodology and theory. For further information concerning the meeting contact Dr. Wojciech Gasparski, Head, Design Methodology Unit, Department of Praxiology, Instytut Filozofii i Socjologii, Polskiej Akademii Nauk, Nowy Swiat 72, Palac Staszica, 00-330 Warszawa POLAND.

CALL FOR PAPERS...

A special issue of the Journal of Forecasting is scheduled for publication in 1986 by John Wiley & Sons the topic of forecasting and decision analysis. The objective of the issue is to report on the state-of-the-art, new research and applications dealing with the relationship of forecasting methods to the decision-making process. A broad interpretation of both forecasting methods and decision analysis models is encouraged. Prospective authors should send four copies of their papers, preferably by the end of August 1985 to: Derek W. Bunn, London Business School, Sussex Place, Regents Park, London NW1 4SA, ENGLAND

NEW BOOKS. . .

BEHAVIORAL DECISION MAKING

New York: Plenum Press, March 1985

Cost, (US and Canada) \$47.50/elsewhere \$57.00

Edited by George Wright

This book presents an overview of research and theory in behavioral decision making. The disciplines covered include cognitive psychology, social psychology, management science, sociology, and political science. The book contains fourteen original papers and three reprinted articles.

CONTENTS: Individual decision making: Psychology of risky decisions (J.W. Payne). The framing of decisions and the psychology of choice (A. Tversky and D. Kahneman). Decisional variance (G. Wright). Cognitive approaches to decision making (A.J. Maule). Small group decision making: Social interdependence and decision making (D.M. Messick). Combining individual judgments (W.R. Ferrell). Organizational decision making: Organizational, group, and individual decision making in cross-cultural perspective (G. Wright). Contexted decision making - a socio-organizational perspective (D. Weeks and S. Whimster). Sociological approaches to power and decisions (R. King). Decision making in organisations - the effective use of manpower (H.V. Swann). Improving decisions - the role of decision aids: Design of design aiding systems (A.D. Wisudha). Handling uncertainty - levels of analysis of decision problems (P. Humphreys and D. Berkeley).

Decisions in design - analyzing and aiding the art of synthesis (J.A. Wise). Judgmental forecasting: Prediction, diagnosis, and causal thinking in forecasting (H.J. Einhorn and R.M. Hogarth). A comparative evaluation of objective and subjective weather forecasts in the United States (A. Murphy and B.G. Brown). Decision theory - areas of future impact: Education and decision theory - a personal view (J. Dowie). Choice, decision and the anticipation of events (L.C. Currie). Index.

BEHAVIORAL DECISION THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION

by George Wright

Beverly Hills: Sage (and Harmondsworth, England, Penguin,)

May 1984

(Cost, US) \$20.00 hardback and \$10.00 paperback

Cost, England and rest of world £3.95

Behavioural Decision Theory assumes no background in complex mathematical skills but the author recommends the reader to take part in several pencil and paper 'experiments' which give an insight into the type of psychological research that has been undertaken. Four major issues are discussed: How good are we at making decisions? Can decision-making be improved? How do we actually make decisions? Are some people better at making decisions than others?

The book also includes more detailed study of the methods of dealing with uncertainty, the value placed on money, the benefits of decision analysis on decision making and revision of opinions.

CONTENTS: introduction / 1. Subjective Expected Utility Theory as a Choice Principle / 2. Estimation of Probability and Utility / 3. Does Subjective Expected Utility Theory Describe Decision-Making? / 4. Individual and Cultural Differences in Decision-making Under Uncertainty / 5. Revision of Opinion / 6. Descriptive Theories of Decision-making / Appendices / References / Index.

NEW BOOKS. . .

Armstrong, J. S. (1985). Long-Range Forecasting: From Crystal Ball to Computer (2nd Edition). New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1985. 600 Pp. ISBN 0 471-82360-0 \$42.50 (cloth), ISBN 0 471-82260-4 \$22.95 (paper)

This new revised and expanded edition shows you how to use the very latest forecasting techniques to attain higher levels of accuracy. This book is still the best one to answer the questions: "which forecasting method is best to use in a given situation?" and "What are the advantages and disadvantages for each method?"

This book integrates the latest research on forecasting. Combining the results of over 350 new books and articles with 700 from the first edition, the book covers research in economics, sociology, psychology, transportation, education and management, with references to medicine, weather, and technology.

Hoaglin, D. C., Light, R. F., McPeck, B., & Mosteller, F. (1984). Data for Decisions: Information Strategies for Policymakers. Lanham (MD): University Press of America, Pp. 340. \$29.50 (cloth), \$18.50 (paper)

This volume is aimed at policy makers, and provides a basis for evaluating the quality of and deciding what to do with information collected by various methods. Using non-technical language, the authors focus on three types of policy concerns: understanding effects of programs, measuring the status quo, and predicting the future. This comprehensive overview will be useful to the student and teacher of policy analysis, as well as statisticians and researchers.

Brams, S. J. (1985). Superpower Games: Applying Game Theory to Superpower Conflict. New Haven (CT): Yale University Press, Pp. 192. ISBN 03323-0 \$22.50 (cloth), ISBN 03364-8 \$6.95 (paper)

This book ... applies the mathematics of game theory to the strategic analysis of superpower conflict. He not only shows how game theory can be used to model different aspects of superpower conflict -- how deterrence works, why the arms race persists, and problems relating to verifying arms-control agreements -- but also suggests ways to ameliorate this conflict by modifying the rules of "superpower games."

Note--the comments on books above were taken from literature provided by the publishers.

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