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Correspondence: ikarkazis@aegean.gr

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INTRODUCTION

This issue is dedicated to the memory of our esteemed colleague Prof. Abraham Mehrez. Abraham was the Editor in Chief of the Journal, and he envisioned numerous special issues, each dealing with a different broad managerial dilemma. Abraham passed away on March 5th 2001, after a long and courageous fight with cancer. He was one of the first to join Prof. John Karkazis in his efforts to form IMSAM. Prof. Mehrez believed that there were various avenues open for forming cooperation in the Middle East and the Balkan region and that scientific cooperation was a lesser-used path that promised great potential for cooperation. Creation and dissemination of knowledge in our area of the world would be an invaluable means also for meeting with colleagues with different political and existential views. In our context, we attempted to congregate not as political scientists dealing with forms of cooperation between and among nations, but as scientists exchanging views about our research. Clearly, this would pave the road for future cooperation and understanding.

Abraham's charismatic personality attracted numerous colleagues to our venture, and his premature death affected us all. This issue is dedicated to two subjects proposed by him: the utilization of Data Envelope Analysis (DEA) to managerial dilemmas, and higher education. There are six papers dealing with DEA, selected by guest editor Prof. Zilla Sinuany-Stern. The three articles dealing with higher education were selected by guest editor Prof. Arie Reichel. The nine articles underwent the double-blind referee process, and some were revised and resubmitted several times. We would have preferred to wait more time to allow for more articles on each subject and to perhaps publish two special issues, but the lengthy review and revision processes would have created additional delays in issuing the Journal. I do hope that the compromise on the number of articles will not deter us from continuing the spirit of IMSAM and Abraham Mehrez.

The article by Chetchostak and Kaiser utilized DEA in their assessment of Wichita Transit Department. Filipic and Grcic examined relative level of regional development in Croatia by applying DEA. Friedman and Sinuany-Stern applied DEA to analyze the operational efficiency of outpatient clinics in Israel.

In the same country, Israeli, Mehrez and Hadad employed DEA to hotel advertisements. Puig-Junoy studied optimal resource allocation of public service inputs in the Spanish health care system. Finally, Seiford and Zhu investigated value judgment vs. allocative efficiency of Tennessee county jails. Clearly, the varieties of the applications attest to the value and universality of DEA.

The three articles on education represent a unique perspective in terms of technology and subject matters. The article by Amami and Brinberg focuses on computer based learning and the insights that are gained from learning theories and information technology (IT). Muller and Pizam reflect on the appropriateness of the American model of higher education in hospitality management education to Mediterranean countries. Finally, Uriely

and Meyer converge on technology and hospitality management education in their analysis of satellite mediated distance learning.

Arie Reichel
Editor-in-chief