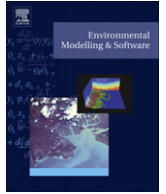


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### Editorial

## Best Paper Awards for 2007

As one of its initiatives, the Editorial Board of EMS instituted annual Best Paper Awards inaugurally in 2005. The aim of the awards is to recognize those authors whose papers epitomize the aims and scope of the journal. Characteristics of candidate papers are that they must possess strong features of the following: high quality, displaying innovation, being interdisciplinary in their problem treatment, generic in their utility and rigorous in the way their model or software testing is performed and reported. For papers published in 2007 the Editors have decided to make a single award in each of the three categories: Integrated Modelling; Generic Modelling and/or Software Methods; and Decision Support.

We are pleased to report on the selections of the three Editors of EMS. The “Best Paper 2007: Integrated Modelling” category was awarded to P. Reichert, M. Borsuk, M. Hostmann, S. Schweizer, C. Spörri, K. Tockner and B. Truffer for “Concepts of decision support for river rehabilitation.” In this paper relations in all the sub-models of an integrated probability network are quantified to generate probabilistic predictions of model endpoints. Predicted endpoint probabilities, and the relative change in probabilities between alternative scenarios, convey the magnitude of system response to proposed management measures, accounting for predictive uncertainties.

The “Best Paper 2007: Generic Modelling and/or Software” category is “PEAS: A toolbox to assess the accuracy of estimated parameters in environmental models” by N. Checchi, E. Giusti and S. Marsili-Libelli. In MATLAB, PEAS provides several model assessment tools, in addition to parameter estimation, such as error function plotting, trajectory sensitivity and Monte Carlo analysis, to

assess the adequacy of the experimental data to the estimation problem.

The “Best Paper 2007: Decision Support” category was awarded to R. Sojda for “Empirical evaluation of decision support systems: Needs, definitions, potential methods, and an example pertaining to waterfowl management.” Here empirical evaluation methods are discussed and informed by an example of evaluation of a decision support system for trumpeter swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) management, developed using interacting intelligent agents, expert systems and a queuing system.

Congratulations to all three teams for producing such excellent and valuable papers. These awards and those for 2006 will be presented at the Fourth Biennial meeting of the International Environmental Modelling and Software Society, held from July 7–10 in Barcelona (see [www.iemss.org/iemss2008](http://www.iemss.org/iemss2008)).

We are looking forward to assessing the 2008 Best Paper Awards, and hoping to see you at iEMSS 2010 and at the 18th World IMACS-MODSIM'09 Congress in Cairns, Australia (see [mssanz.org.au/modsim09](http://mssanz.org.au/modsim09)).

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