

Transform Healthcare with HOpeR: A Graduate School in Healthcare Optimization

Are you a healthcare professional seeking innovative solutions to challenges in healthcare systems? **HOpeR (Healthcare Operational Research graduate school)** invites you to join a transformative program designed to bring together healthcare professionals, academics, and researchers to improve healthcare optimization.

What is HOpeR?

HOpeR is the first graduate school in healthcare optimization in the Americas, co-created by researchers in Optimisation and Healthcare from Colombia and Canada. It fosters collaboration between healthcare professionals and researchers to solve real-world problems through operational research and optimization methods. HOpeR's second edition will take place at **Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)** (Montreal, Canada) from **August 18 to August 22, 2025**.

Objective

HOpeR aims to provide **advanced training** in formulating models and developing solution approaches for healthcare problems using cutting-edge methodologies. It also seeks to foster impactful research in operational research, especially among young researchers and healthcare managers.

Key Activities in HOpeR 2025

To achieve these objectives, HOpeR 2025 will offer:

- **Talks and workshops** by experts on foundational and advanced topics in operational research, machine learning, and healthcare systems optimization.
- **Implementation Challenges:** Discussions on practical challenges and strategies to engage stakeholders throughout the research process.
- **Hackathon Session:** Collaborative event where participants come together to solve real-world challenges through creativity, teamwork, and innovative solutions. As a practitioner, you have the opportunity to either submit your own real-world challenge to be tackled during the event or actively participate in solving other challenges.
- **#ThisIsMyResearch Session:** Short presentations by participants, where they'll receive feedback from experts, peers, and healthcare professionals.
- **Serious Game:** Interactive activities to enhance learning and collaboration.
- **Dinner & Networking:** We will host a special networking evening designed to bring students, professors and practitioners together in an engaging environment. This event serves as a platform for networking, mentorship, and even recruitment, fostering valuable interactions between students, academics, and industry professionals in a relaxed and dynamic setting.

Meet the Experts

HOpeR is proud to host leading professors who are at the forefront of healthcare optimization research. Their expertise will enrich the event with innovative insights and practical knowledge. The following professors will be presenting at HOpeR 2025:

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Angel Ruiz | Université Laval, Canada | Optimization, Simulation, Supply Chain |
| Dionne Aleman | University of Toronto, Canada | Mathematical Optimization, Disaster Management, Resource Allocation |
| Peter Vanberkel | Dalhousie University, Canada | Patient Flow, Queuing Theory, Healthcare Delivery |
| Mariel Lavieri | University of Michigan, USA | Chronic Disease, Dynamic Programming, Personalized Care |
| Beste Kucukyazici | Queen's University, Canada | Markov Processes, Game Theory, Collaborative Healthcare |

As a practitioner or sponsor, you'll have the chance to engage with these thought leaders, whether through interactive sessions or during networking opportunities. Discover more about their backgrounds and expertise by visiting www.hoper-school.com.

A Look Back at HOpeR 2022

The inaugural HOpeR, hosted in Bogotá, Colombia, brought together over 30 participants, including 23 MSc and PhD students from various countries and seven healthcare managers. The event featured engaging discussions on critical topics such as hospital capacity planning, home healthcare operations, and machine learning methodologies. For an in-depth look at the event, explore pages 43-44 of the IFORS Newsletter (March 2023): [Read the full article](#).

Why Join?

- Collaborate with researchers and other healthcare professionals to address pressing challenges in healthcare systems.
- Gain insights into cutting-edge methodologies that can improve operational efficiency and patient outcomes.
- Present your ideas and receive feedback from experts during interactive pitch sessions.

How Practitioners Can Get Involved with HOpeR

Healthcare professionals have two primary ways to get involved with HOpeR 2025. They can attend the event by selecting one of the available registration options, or they can support the initiative through a sponsorship. See below for more details.

Registration Fees:

| Registration Options | Price (CAD) |
|--|-------------|
| Full Event (5 days) Includes: Access to all conferences, workshops, Hackathon* and Networking Event (Dinner & Networking) | \$1000 |

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| Partial Event (2 days) Includes: Access to all activities (conferences, workshops, and Hackathon) over 2 selected days. Does not include the Dinner & Networking, which can be purchased separately. | \$500 |
| One Day Registration Includes: Access to all conferences and workshops on the chosen day. Does <i>not</i> include the Hackathon and the Dinner & Networking. | \$300 |
| Dinner & Networking | \$150 |

***Hackathon Disclaimer:** Participation in the resolution of Hackathon problems is included in both the Full Event and Partial Event registrations. However, the option to submit your own real-world problem for development during the Hackathon is exclusively available with the Full Event registration.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Support healthcare innovation by encouraging your employer to sponsor HOpeR. Sponsoring HOpeR not only demonstrates your commitment to advancing healthcare systems but also provides visibility and networking opportunities.

Sponsorship Tiers and Benefits

1. **Platinum Sponsor** (\$10,000 CAD)
 - Recognition as a lead sponsor on all HOpeR materials (website, banners, etc.).
 - Opportunity to nominate two participants (registration fees included).
 - Invitation to deliver a keynote session or workshop during the school.
 - Highlighted brand placement with a banner during the event.
2. **Gold Sponsor** (\$5,000 CAD)
 - Recognition as a major sponsor on HOpeR materials.
 - Opportunity to nominate one participant (registration fee included).
 - Highlighted brand placement with a banner during the event.
3. **Silver Sponsor** (\$2,500 CAD)
 - Recognition as a supporting sponsor on the HOpeR website and materials.
 - Logo placement on select materials.
4. **Community Sponsor** (\$1,000 CAD)
 - Recognition as a community-level sponsor.
 - Mention in post-event reports and acknowledgments.

By sponsoring HOpeR, your organization will support the development of innovative solutions in healthcare optimization while connecting with a global network of experts and practitioners.

Get Involved!

Take this opportunity to drive meaningful change in healthcare systems. Contact us at ortmann.janosch@uqam.ca to learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to register. Together, let's create a healthier future with HOpeR!