

## **Special Issue Introduction**

### **Guest Editor**

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I am pleased to introduce this special student issue of the *Federation of Business Disciplines Journal* (FBDJ) for 2020. As the Southwest Decision Sciences Institute VP Student Liaison and Director of the Doctoral Student Consortium, I am pleased to present the research efforts of three of our graduate student members, and which contributes to their academic professional development.

The issue contains three papers contributed by graduate student members of the Southwest Decision Sciences Institute. Each paper offers a creative examination of a contemporary business topic. LeAnn Boyce from the University of North Texas' paper offers an in-depth examination of a closed non-clinically moderated Facebook online support group for COPD patients, analyzing member health information needs, information source quality, and the benefits that members seek from participation. Charity Tinofirei, from the University of North Texas's paper examines unique performance enhancing or inhibiting factors among Zimbabwean employees in non-profit organizations in the capital city Harare. David Kyle Shamburger from the University of Texas at Tyler uses binary logistic regression analysis to examine whether the dispatch mode for intrahospital patient transport, typically done by wheelchair accompanied by trained personnel, is impacted by age, type of disease, and/or length of stay at the healthcare facility

LeAnn Boyce's paper is titled "Assessing Health Information Quality in a Closed, Non-moderated COPD Facebook Group. "Online health communities (OHCs) have seen exponential growth in recent years. This research examines a closed Facebook group for COPD patients to understand the information needs of the participants, what sources are being recommended within the site, and whether the health information exchanged within this group is clinically reliable. The author found that most online activity is directed at socialization, and participants equally sought disease-specific health information and emotional support. Based on the National Institute of Health Guidelines for evaluating the quality of health information sources, she found that 41% of the websites referenced were of questionable credibility and clinical reliability. This study highlights the importance of healthcare professionals selectively promoting clinically reliable health information sites to their patients.

Charity Tinofirei's paper is titled "The Unique Factors Affecting Employee Performance in Non-profit Organizations," and examines employee performance in non-profit organizations in Zimbabwe. This study focused on local employees of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and international humanitarian organizations such as the various agencies,

funds, and programs of the United Nations. The aim is to understand the motivating factors of staff who work to provide an efficient, effective, and economic public service. As a result of this research, the author recommends annual or bi-annual recognition ceremonies where certificates and small cash awards motivate employee performance. In addition, high performing staff can be considered for short term opportunities in other locations to gain international experience and exposure, and remediation for poor employee performance and a participatory management approach between employees and the organization can improve buy in for strategic decision making.

Finally, David Kyle Shamburger uses binary logistic regression analysis to examine whether the dispatch mode for intrahospital patient transport, typically done by wheelchair accompanied by trained personnel, is impacted by age, type of disease, and/or length of stay at the healthcare facility. The author concluded that when using length of stay as proxy for severity of disease (Berki et al., 1984), the longer the length of stay, the more frequent the use of a wheelchair for intrahospital transport. Age also has a major influence on wheelchair usage. As anticipated, older patients are more likely to be transported by wheelchair when compared to younger patients, who may prefer to walk with the provider. Patient safety is a high priority, and transport by wheelchair for patients with greater infirmity is an effective safety measure.

### **ABOUT THE EDITOR**

**Gayle Prybutok** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services at the University of North Texas. She developed and is faculty in the Master's in Health Services Administration Program, and her research interests include online health communication, health education, health care quality improvement and health care operations management