Serpil Mutlu and Rachel Miller win Society for Health Systems Paper Competition

The Society for Health Systems has crowned Serpil Mutlu and Rachel Miller the winners of its 2014 Graduate Student Paper Competition. The paper was chosen among many submissions for its superior technical merit, originality, and overall quality.

Rachel and Serpil submitted a paper titled “Optimizing Resident-based Teamlet Schedules to Improve Continuity in Primary Care” based on research they conducted at the Healthcare Systems Engineering Institute. They were awarded a $1,000 prize, and additional $500 stipend that will allow them to attend the Healthcare Systems Process Improvement Conference in late February.

Serpil Mutlu is in her final year of industrial engineering doctoral studies at Northeastern. She received her B.S. in industrial engineering from Middle East Technical University in 2009. At HSyE, her primary research focus is associated with identifying critical operation scheduling issues, and designing new systems using industrial engineering approaches. She also models problems associated with resident scheduling, co-availability, and scheduling immediate telehealth appointments using mathematical programming, and then solves these problems using heuristics and simulation algorithms.

Rachel Miller has worked at HSyE since receiving her B.S. in industrial engineering from Northeastern University in 2012. Complex scheduling problems, especially in the primary-care setting, are the main focus of her research. With the IHI Triple Aim in mind, she is attempting to improve the continuity of care by optimizing the portion of visits a patient spends with familiar physicians. Rachel is also a candidate for a fellowship in the Gordon Engineering Leadership program at Northeastern. This selective program seeks to equip engineers with skills in the areas of public speaking, professionalism, project management, and leadership.