Stanford



Ross Shachter

Associate Professor of Management Science and Engineering

CONTACT INFORMATION

Administrative Contact

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Bio

BIO

Ross Shachter joined Stanford's faculty directly after receiving his Ph.D. degree. His doctoral dissertation developed a method for purchasing an expert's forecast that encourages accurate revelation of the expert's beliefs as probabilities. Since then his research has focused on the representation, manipulation, and analysis of uncertainty and probabilistic reasoning in decision systems. He developed many of the fundamental methods for analyzing Bayesian belief networks and influence diagrams, and showed how they could be used by people and machines to communicate complex relationships among uncertain quantities, decisions, and objectives. His current research focuses on modeling uncertain processes and decision#making, including medical policy, meta-analysis, and intelligent systems. He has analyzed cancer screening processes for bladder and breast cancer and vaccination strategies for HIV and Helicobacter pylori.

His research interests include:

Influence diagram knowledge representation and solution;

Intelligent decision systems;

Medical decision analysis;

Decision analysis fundamentals; and

Planning under uncertainty

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, Management Science and Engineering
- Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)
- Member, Stanford Cancer Institute
- Affiliate, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

 $\bullet \ \ \text{John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn University Fellow in Undergraduate Education, VPUE, (2021-2026)}$

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Board Chair, Association for Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (2018 2020)
- Treasurer, Association for Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (2016 2018)
- Secretary, Association for Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (2014 2016)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- BS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Management (1976)
- PhD, UC Berkeley, Operations Research (1982)

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Prof. Shachter joined Stanford's faculty directly after receiving his Ph.D. degree. His doctoral dissertation developed a method for purchasing an expert's forecast that encourages accurate revelation of the expert's beliefs as probabilities. Since then his research has focused on the representation, manipulation, and analysis of uncertainty and probabilistic reasoning in decision systems. As part of this work, he developed the DAVID influence diagram processing system for the Macintosh. He has developed models scheduling patients for cancer follow-up, and analyzing vaccination strategies for HIV and Helobacter pylori.

He has worked closely with many students in Bioinformatics, where he held a courtesy appointment. He has been active in the Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence, is a full member of INFORMS and its Decision Analysis Society. He has held memberships in the American Association for Artificial Intelligence, the Society for Medical Decision Making, and the Society for Decision Professionals.

Teaching

COURSES

2023-24

- Decision Analysis Seminar: MS&E 454 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Discrete Probability Concepts And Models: MS&E 20 (Sum)
- Foundations of Decision Analysis: MS&E 252 (Win)
- Introduction to Decision Analysis: MS&E 152 (Spr)
- Probabilistic Analysis: MS&E 220 (Aut)

2022-23

- Decision Analysis Seminar: MS&E 454 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Discrete Probability Concepts And Models: MS&E 20 (Sum)
- Foundations of Decision Analysis: MS&E 252 (Win)
- Influence Diagrams and Probabilistics Networks: MS&E 355 (Spr)
- Introduction to Decision Analysis: MS&E 152 (Spr)
- Probabilistic Analysis: MS&E 220 (Aut)

2021-22

- Foundations of Decision Analysis: MS&E 252 (Win)
- Influence Diagrams and Probabilistics Networks: MS&E 355 (Spr)
- Introduction to Decision Analysis: MS&E 152 (Spr)

• Probabilistic Analysis: MS&E 220 (Aut, Sum)

2020-21

- Decision Analysis I: Foundations of Decision Analysis: MS&E 252 (Win)
- Decision Analysis Seminar: MS&E 454 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Introduction to Decision Analysis: MS&E 152 (Spr)
- Probabilistic Analysis: MS&E 220 (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Fernando Rodriguez Silva Santisteban

Master's Program Advisor

Joshua Chan, Prithvi Krishnarao, Andrew Lin, Anastasiia Malenko, Ramesh Manian, Karina Santoso, Scott Simmons, Benjamin Zaidel

Doctoral (Program)

Korina Arpasova, Morgan Knowlton, Samuel Liu

GRADUATE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

• Biomedical Informatics (Phd Program)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

• Uncovering interpretable potential confounders in electronic medical records. Nature communications

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Zeng, J., Gensheimer, M. F., Rubin, D. L., Athey, S., Shachter, R. D. 2022; 13 (1): 1014
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• Why Did They Do That? Probabilistic and Causal Inference: The Works of Judea Pearl

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Shachter, R., Heckerman, D.
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Association for Computing Machinery.2022: 805-812

• Natural Language Processing to Identify Cancer Treatments With Electronic Medical Records. JCO clinical cancer informatics

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Zeng, J., Banerjee, I., Henry, A. S., Wood, D. J., Shachter, R. D., Gensheimer, M. F., Rubin, D. L. 2021; 5: 379–93
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A Probabilistic Model to Support Radiologists' Classification Decisions in Mammography Practice MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

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Zeng, J., Gimenez, F., Burnside, E. S., Rubin, D. L., Shachter, R. 2019; 39 (3): 208–16
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 Prophylactic Fixation Can Be Cost-effective in Preventing a Contralateral Bisphosphonate-associated Femur Fracture CLINICAL ORTHOPAEDICS AND RELATED RESEARCH

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Jiang, S. Y., Kaufman, D. J., Chien, B. Y., Longoria, M., Shachter, R., Bishop, J. A.
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• A Web-based Decision Tool to Estimate Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Risk in Emergency Department Patients Cureus

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Manella, H., Sivasankar, S., Perry, J., Pfeil, S., Senyak, J., Shachter, R., Govindarajan, P. 2018; 10 (1)
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• Dynamic Strategy for Personalized Medicine: An Application to Metastatic Breast Cancer. Journal of biomedical informatics

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Chen, X., Shachter, R., Kurian, A., Rubin, D. 2017
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Defense Science Board Summer Study on Autonomy

David, R., Nielsen, P., et al

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. Washington, DC.

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Decisions and Dependence in Influence Diagrams Proceedings of Machine Learning Research

Shachter, R. D.

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Im, J. J., Shachter, R. D., Oliva, E. M., Henderson, P. T., Paik, M. C., Trafton, J. A. 2015; 30 (7): 979-991

• Complexity of the Exact Solution to the Test Sequencing Problem Thirty-First Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

Liu, W., Shachter, R. D.

edited by Heskes, T., Meila, M.

AUAI.2015: 494-503

• Toward cost-effective staffing mixes for Veterans Affairs substance use disorder treatment programs. BMC health services research

Im, J. J., Shachter, R. D., Finney, J. W., Trafton, J. A.

2015; 15 (1): 515-?

• Complex Operational Decision Making in Networked Systems of Humans and Machines: A Multidisciplinary Approach

edited by ISBN 978-0-309-30770-3 102 pages 8.5 x 11 PAPERBACK (2014) Committee on Integrating Humans, Machines and Networks, A. National Academies Press. 2014

 Approximate Kalman Filter QLearning for Continuous StateSpace MDPs. Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth Conference on Uncertainty In Artificial Intelligence

AUAI.2013

• Formulating Asymmetric Decision Problems as Decision Circuits DECISION ANALYSIS

Bhattacharjya, D., Shachter, R. D.

2012; 9 (2): 138-145

 Backtracking for More Efficient Large Scale Dynamic Programming. Proceedings of the Eleventh International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications, Boca Raton, FL

2012

• Strictly Proper Mechanisms with Cooperating Players. Proceedings of the Twenty-Seventh Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

AUAI.2011

• Dynamic programming in influence diagrams with decision circuits. Proceedings of the Twenty-Sixth Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

AUAI.2010

• Pearl Causality and the Value of Control. Heuristics, Probability, and Causality: A Tribute to Judea Pearl

Shachter, R., D., Heckerman, D., E.

edited by Dechter, R., Geffner, H., Halpern, J., Y.

College Publications..2010: 431-447

Solving influence diagrams: exact algorithms. Wiley Encyclopedia of Operations Research and Management Science. Wiley.

Shachter, R., Bhattacharjya, D.

edited by Cochran, J., J.

2010

 Three new sensitivity analysis methods for influence diagrams. Proceedings of the Twenty-Sixth Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence AUAI.2010

Cost-Effectiveness of a Potential Prophylactic Helicobacter pylori Vaccine in the United States JOURNAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Rupnow, M. F., Chang, A. H., Shachter, R. D., Owens, D. K., Parsonnet, J.

2009; 200 (8): 1311-1317

 Are Patients Getting the oGisto in Risk Communication? Patient Understanding of Prognosis in Breast Cancer Treatment JOURNAL OF CANCER EDUCATION

Hutton, D. W., Belkora, J. K., Shachter, R. D., Moore, D. H.

2009; 24 (3): 194-199

How can economic schemes curtail the increasing sex ratio at birth in China? DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

Bhattacharjya, D., Sudarshan, A., Tuljapurkar, S., Shachter, R., Feldman, M.

2008; 19: 1831-1850

How can economic schemes curtail the increasing sex ratio at birth in China? Demographic research

Bhattacharjya, D., Sudarshan, A., Tuljapurkar, S., Shachter, R., Feldman, M.

2008; 19 (54): 1831-1850

• Sensitivity analysis in decision circuits. Proceedings of the Twenty-Fourth Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

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Evaluating influence diagrams with decision circuits. Proceedings of the Twenty-Third Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

AUAI.2007

Model Building with Belief Networks and Influence Diagrams. Advances in Decision Analysis: From Foundations to Applications

Shachter, R., D.

edited by Edwards, W., Ralph, J., Miles, F.

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Bayesian network to predict breast cancer risk of mammographic microcalcifications and reduce number of benign biopsy results: Initial
experience RADIOLOGY

Burnside, E. S., Rubin, D. L., Fine, J. P., Shachter, R. D., Sisney, G. A., Leung, W. K.

2006; 240 (3): 666-673

 Value of quantitative D-dimer assays in identifying pulmonary embolism: Implications from a sequential decision model ACADEMIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Duriseti, R. S., Shachter, R. D., Brandeau, M. L.

2006; 13 (7): 755-766

• Individualizing generic decision models using assessments as evidence JOURNAL OF BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS

Scott, G. C., Shachter, R. D.

2005: 38 (4): 281-297

• Influence Diagrams for Team Decision Analysis. Decision Analysis

Detwarasiti, A., Shachter, R., D.

2005; 2 (4): 207-228

• Individualizing Generic Decision Models Using Assessments as Evidence. Journal of Biomedical Informatics

Scott, G., Shachter, R.

2005; 4 (38): 281-29

• A probabilistic expert system that provides automated mammographic-histologic correlation: Initial experience 103rd Annual Meeting of the American-

Roentgen-Ray-Society

Burnside, E. S., Rubin, D. L., Shachter, R. D., Sohlich, R. E., Sickles, E. A.

AMER ROENTGEN RAY SOC.2004: 481-88

Using a Bayesian network to predict the probability and type of breast cancer represented by microcalcifications on mammography 11th World Congress
on Medical Informatics

Burnside, E. S., Rubin, D. L., Shachter, R. D.

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• The Cost Effectiveness of Partially Effective HIV Vaccines. Operations Research and Health Care

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• A Bayesian Network to Assist Mammography Interpretation. Operations Research and Health Care

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• Improving a Bayesian network's ability to predict the probability of malignancy of microcalcifications on mammography 18th International Congress and Exhibition on Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery (CARS 2004)

Burnside, E. S., Rubin, D. L., Shachter, R. D.

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Fienberg, S. E., Haviland, A. M., Heckerman, D., Shachter, R., Kadane, J. B., Moral, S., Pearl, J.

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Scott, G. C., Shachter, R. D., Lenert, L. A.

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• User-Agent Value Alignment. Proceedings of the 2002 AAAI Symposium

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Owens, D. K., Edwards, D. M., Shachter, R. D.

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Rupnow, M. F., Shachter, R. D., Owens, D. K., Parsonnet, J.

2001; 20 (5-6): 879-885

• Second Opinion: A framework for using decision models to automate & individualize interactive patient decision support aids

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Using background knowledge to speed reinforcement learning in physical agents. Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Machine Learning
 2001

• Using decision models to automate & individualize interactive patient-oriented decision support aids

Scott, G. C., Shachter, R., Lenert, L. A.

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 A dynamic transmission model for predicting trends in Helicobacter pylori and associated diseases in the United States EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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A Bayesian network for mammography Annual Symposium of the American-Medical-Informatics-Association

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Rupnow, M. F., Owens, D. K., Shachter, R., Parsonnet, J.

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Shachter, R. D.

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• Learning from What You Don't Observe. Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence: Proceedings of the Fourteenth Conference

Peot, M. A., Shachter, R. D.

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• Representation and analysis of medical decision problems with influence diagrams MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

Owens, D. K., Shachter, R. D., Nease, R. F.

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Shachter, R. D., Mandelbaum, M.

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Heckerman, D., Shachter, R.

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• A Definition and Graphical Representation for Causality. Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence: Proceedings of the Eleventh Conference

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• Decision-Theoretic Foundations for Causal Reasoning. Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research

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• Decision Flexibility.

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Lehmann, H. P., Shachter, R. D.

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• Three Approaches to Probability Model Selection.

Poland, W., B., Shachter, R., D.

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• A method for the dynamic selection of models under time constraints. Selecting Models from Data: Artificial Intelligence and Statistics

Rutledge, G., Shachter, R., D.

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• A Decision-Based View of Causality.

Heckerman, D., E., Shachter, R., D. 1994

• Laplace's Method Approximations for Probabilistic Inference in Belief Networks with Continuous Variables.

Azevedo-Filho, A., Shachter, R., D. 1994

• Global Conditioning for Probabilistic Inference in Belief Networks.

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• End-User Construction of Influence Diagrams for Bayesian Statistics:

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• A Method for the Dynamic Selection of Models Under Time Constraints

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• Using Potential Influence Diagrams for Probabilistic Inference and Decision Making:

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• REPRESENTATION OF PREFERENCES IN DECISION-SUPPORT SYSTEMS COMPUTERS AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

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• DECISION-MAKING USING PROBABILISTIC INFERENCE METHODS 8TH CONF ON UNCERTAINTY IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Shachter, R. D., Peot, M. A. MORGAN KAUFMANN PUB INC.1992: 276–283

• Patient-Specific Explanation in Models of Chronic Disease. AI in Medicine

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• Structural Controllability and Observability in Influence Diagrams.

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• Meta-Analysis by the Confidence Profile Method: The Statistical Synthesis of Evidence.

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• Representation of Preferences in Decision Support Systems. Comput Biomed Res

Farr, B., R., Shachter, R., D. 1992; 25 (4): 324-335

• EVALUATION OF NONLINEAR OPTIMIZATION FOR SCHEDULING OF FOLLOW-UP CYSTOSCOPIES TO DETECT RECURRENT BLADDER-CANCER MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

Kent, D. L., NEASE, R. A., Sox, H. C., Shortliffe, L. D., Shachter, R. 1991; 11 (4): 240-248

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• Representation of preferences in decision-support systems. Proceedings / the ... Annual Symposium on Computer Application [sic] in Medical Care. Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care

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• Directed Reduction Algorithms and Decomposable Graphs. Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

Shachter, R., D., Andersen, S., K., Poh, K., L.

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Amsterdam: North-Holland..1991: 197-208

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• AN ORDERED EXAMINATION OF INFLUENCE DIAGRAMS NETWORKS

Shachter, R. D.

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• DYNAMIC-PROGRAMMING AND INFLUENCE DIAGRAMS IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SYSTEMS MAN AND CYBERNETICS

TATMAN, J. A., Shachter, R. D.

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• AN INTRODUCTION TO A BAYESIAN METHOD FOR META-ANALYSIS - THE CONFIDENCE PROFILE METHOD MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

Eddy, D. M., Hasselblad, V., Shachter, R.

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• Simulation Approaches to General Probabilistic Inference on Belief Networks. Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

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• Evidence Absorption and Propagation through Evidence Reversals. Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

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• An Influence Diagram Approach to Medical Technology Assessment. Influence Diagrams, Belief Nets, and Decision Analysis

Shachter, R., D., Eddy, D., M., Hasselblad, V.

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• A Linear Approximation Method for Probabilistic Inference. Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

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• Symbolic Probabilistic Inference in Belief Networks.

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• GAUSSIAN INFLUENCE DIAGRAMS MANAGEMENT SCIENCE

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• EFFICIENT SCHEDULING OF CYSTOSCOPIES IN MONITORING FOR RECURRENT BLADDER-CANCER MEDICAL DECISION MAKING

Kent, D. L., Shachter, R., Sox, H. C., HUI, N. S., Shortliffe, L. D., Moynihan, S., Torti, F. M.

1989; 9 (1): 26-37

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Shachter, R., D., Eddy, D., M., Hasselblad, V., Wolpert, R.

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• Efficient Inference on Generalized Fault Diagrams. Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

Shachter, R., D., Bertrand, L., J.

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• Simulation Approaches to General Probabilistic Inference on Belief Networks

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Shachter, R. D., Eddy, D. M., Hasselblad, V.

HANLEY & BELFUS INC.1988: 346–46

• DECISION-THEORY FOR RETROSPECTIVE JUDGEMENTS OF DECISIONS

Yu, A., Kent, D. L., HIGGINS, M. C., Mazur, D. J., Sox, H. C., Evans, P. A., Shachter, R. D., Fujimura, I., Howard, R. A.

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PROBABILISTIC INFERENCE AND INFLUENCE DIAGRAMS OPERATIONS RESEARCH

Shachter, R. D.

1988; 36 (4): 589-604

• OPTIMAL SCHEDULING FOR PATIENTS WITH SUPERFICIAL BLADDER-CANCER

Kent, D., Nease, R., Sox, H., Shachter, R.

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• LOCAL COMPUTATIONS WITH PROBABILITIES ON GRAPHICAL STRUCTURES AND THEIR APPLICATION TO EXPERT SYSTEMS -

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1988; 50 (2): 194-224

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• An Influence Diagram Approach to the Confidence Profile Method for Health Technology Assessment.

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• THINKING BACKWARD FOR KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION AI MAGAZINE

Shachter, R. D., HECKERMAN, D. E.

1987; 8 (3): 55-61

• A Heuristic Bayesian Approach to Knowledge Acquisition: Application to Analysis of Tissue-Type Plasminogen Activator.

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Shachter, R., D., Bertrand, L., J.

1987

• EVALUATING INFLUENCE DIAGRAMS OPERATIONS RESEARCH

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