

## **Another Tunnel at the End of the Tunnel**

Dear *IJAHP* Reader:

The events of the past weeks and days have shown how complex and dynamic today's environment is. When we thought the pandemic was over, the appearance of a new, more contagious Delta variant seriously affected our expectations of getting back to normal (or a new normal) soon. The debates continue about the extent to which, or if, meeting restrictions should be re-imposed, whether vaccination should be mandated, and so forth. If there was only a single factor to consider (i.e., decreasing COVID-19 infections) the decisions would be easier, but other, even conflicting, factors, such as economic, moral and mental health, also need to be addressed. A similarly complex situation has occurred with the recent news about the quick collapse of Afghanistan upon the American exit. There were clearly many factors at play that were either not considered, not known, or whose impact was underestimated at the time of making or implementing the decision to withdraw.

Thomas Saaty had situations like these in mind when he developed the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) to consider multicriteria decisions in a complex world (Saaty, 1980) and later further developed the Analytic Network Process (ANP) that can include dependence and feedback in the decision analysis. The feedback occurs not just among the criteria, but also among the alternatives, and even between criteria and alternatives (Saaty, 2005). Saaty conceived decision-making in a complex world to be either a hierarchy or a network of factors dependent on each other. The mission of the *International Journal of the Analytic Hierarchy Process (IJAHP)* is to spread the use of the AHP/ANP to solve real, complex, and important problems. As such, this issue includes several important applications; however, we are particularly proud to include a report titled "*An Analytic Network Model (ANP) to Estimate the Benefits, Opportunities, Costs, and Risks (BOCR) that Gun Policies and Violence Prevention Interventions Have on Legal Users of Firearms*" authored by Professors Amos N. Guiora, Marcel C. Minutolo and Luis G. Vargas, in this issue. This award-winning study tackles one of today's most controversial and difficult problems and constitutes a magnificent example of the use of an AHP/ANP approach to address complex decisions.

Enjoy the issue!



Enrique Mu, PhD  
*IJAHP* Editor in Chief

## **REFERENCES**

- Saaty, T. L. (1980). *Decision making for leaders: The Analytic Hierarchy Process*. New York, N. Y., McGraw-Hill.
- Saaty, T. L. (2005). *Theory and applications of the Analytic Network Process*. Pittsburgh, RWS Publications.