

INTRODUCTION TO THE LEHMANN SPECIAL SECTION

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Erich L. Lehmann died at the age of 91 on September 12, 2009. The statistics community lost a great scientist who made fundamental contributions to many areas of statistics. The Council of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics has decided that this issue of *The Annals of Statistics* should be dedicated to the memory of Erich L. Lehmann.

Erich L. Lehmann was a pioneer in establishing a mathematical framework and theory for the foundations of modern statistics. His books *Testing Statistical Hypotheses* (1959) and *Theory of Point Estimation* (1983) have helped to educate several generations of statisticians around the globe. Many avenues of research began with the seminal work of Erich; these have been further developed and brought to a broad range of fields in statistics, often by his many former Ph.D. students.

The current Special Issue of *The Annals of Statistics* contains three invited articles. Javier Rojo discusses Erich's scientific achievements and provides complete lists of his scientific writings and his former Ph.D. students. Willem van Zwet describes aspects of Erich's life and work, enriched with personal and interesting anecdotes of Erich's long and productive scientific journey. Finally, Peter Bickel, Aiyou Chen and Elizaveta Levina present a research paper on network models: they dedicate their contribution to Erich, emphasizing that their new nonparametric method and issues about optimality have been very much influenced by Erich's thinking.

Erich Lehmann was not only an outstanding scientist but also a very kind and generous person. Although he is not among us any more, his scientific legacy and wonderful memories will always remain.

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