PREFACE

This special issue of RMJM constitutes a major part of the Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Mathematical Biology (ICMB-4) which was held in the breathtakingly beautiful city of Wuyishan, Fujian Province, China, May 29–June 1, 2007 (`http://icmb.mnkjxy.com/`). All papers were carefully refereed and selected based on mathematical originality and biological relevance of the presented research contribution.

The conference was organized by the Chinese Society for Mathematical Biology, the Committee of Mathematical Ecology with the Chinese Society for Ecology and was hosted by Minnan Science and Technology Institute and the School of Mathematics and Computer Science of Fujian Normal University. More than 400 researchers in mathematical and computational biology from around the globe participated in the conference. The conference was not only a major event in showcasing the remarkable growth of mathematical biosciences in China, but also a much needed gathering for mathematical and computational biology researchers around the world to develop international interactions and collaborations.

The Scientific Committee is co-chaired by Lansun Chen (China), Simon Levin (USA) and Yang Kuang (USA). Members include 39 international leading researchers in mathematical biosciences. The Organizing Committee consists of 31 members, is advised by Honda Dai and Lanshun Chen, and co-chaired by Zhenglu Wang and Wending Wang.

The conference program consisted of plenary, invited, and contributed talks in a wide range of topics in mathematical biosciences. The plenary speakers were Yoh Iwasa (Kyushu University, Japan), Yang Kuang (Arizona State University, USA), Philip Maini (University of Oxford, UK), Shigui Ruan (The University of Miami, USA), Karl Sigmund (University of Vienna, Austria), Hal Smith (Arizona State University, USA), Jianhong Wu (York University, Canada) and Xiaoqiang Zhao (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada).