Preface

This volume is our tribute to David A. Freedman, whom we regard as one of the great statisticians of our time. He received his B.Sc. degree from McGill University and his Ph.D. from Princeton, and joined the Department of Statistics of the University of California, Berkeley, in 1962, where, apart from sabbaticals, he has been ever since.

In a career of over 45 years, David has made many fine contributions to probability and statistical theory, and to the application of statistics. His early research was on Markov chains and martingales, and two topics with which he has had a lifelong fascination: exchangeability and De Finetti's theorem, and the consistency of Bayes estimates. His asymptotic theory for the bootstrap was also highly influential. David was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1991, and in 2003 he received the John J. Carty Award for the Advancement of Science from the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

In addition to his purely academic research, David has extensive experience as a consultant, including working for the Carnegie Commission, the City of San Francisco, and the Federal Reserve, as well as several Departments of the U.S. Government–Energy, Treasury, Justice, and Commerce. He has testified as an expert witness on statistics in a number of law cases, including *Piva v. Xerox* (employment discrimination), *Garza v. County of Los Angeles* (voting rights), and *New York v. Department of Commerce* (census adjustment).

Lastly, he is an exceptionally good writer and teacher, and his many books and review articles are arguably his most important contribution to our subject. His widely used elementary text *Statistics*, written with R. Pisani and R. Purves, now in its 4th edition, is rightly regarded as a classic introductory exposition, while his second text *Statistical Models* (2005) is set to become just as successful in its field.

The roles of theoretical researcher, consultant, and expositor are not disjoint aspects of David's personality, but fully integrated ones. For over 20 years now, he has been writing extensively on statistical modeling. He has contributed to theory, and prepared illuminating expositions and given penetrating critiques of old and new models and methods in a wide range of contexts. The result is a quite remarkable body of research on the theory and application of statistics, particularly to the decennial U.S. census, the social sciences (especially econometrics, political science and the law), and epidemiology. These themes are reflected in this volume of papers by friends and colleagues of David's. We'd like to thank him for his wonderful body of work, and to wish him well for the future.

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