Preface

This collection of papers honors Professor Rabi Bhattacharya in recognition of
a career of dedicated teaching, research and service to his profession. From his
earliest publications Bhattacharya has provided unique approaches to a wide
array of problems in Probability, Statistics and their connections and applica-
tions in sciences and engineering. The diversity of topics covered in this volume
is testimony to this tremendous breadth of expertise and scholarship.

A bibliography of Bhattacharya's publications appears after this Preface. A
brief biographical sketch of Bhattacharya's academic career now follows.

Biographical Sketch

Rabindra Nath Bhattacharya was born January 11, 1937, in his ancestral
home Porgola, District of Barisal, in what is now Bangladesh. His family moved
to Calcutta in 1947 following the partition of India. Undergraduate studies
in India are generally done in four-year colleges affiliated with a university.
Bhattacharya studied in Presidency College, Calcutta, and received a Bachelor
of Science degree in 1956 and Master of Science in 1959. After completion of
the M.Sc. he served as a research scholar at the Indian Statistical Institute
from 1959-1960. From there Bhattacharya took up a Lectureship in Kalyani
University near Calcutta where he taught from 1961 until 1964.

Bhattacharya came to the United States in 1964 to attend graduate school
in the Statistics Department on a fellowship from the University of Chicago. He
completed his PhD as a student of Patrick Billingsley at Chicago in 1967. He
returned to India in the spring of 1967 to marry Bithika (Gowri) Banerjee, his
wife of the last thirty-six years and mother of his two adult children Urmi and
Deepta. In the fall of 1967 he accepted a position in the Statistics Department
at the University of California at Berkeley as an Assistant Professor. In 1972
Bhattacharya moved to the University of Arizona as an Associate Professor in
the Mathematics Department. He was promoted to Full Professor in 1977. In
1982 he joined the Mathematics Department at Indiana University where he
remained until his retirement in 2002. After his retirement from Indiana Uni-
versity, Bhattacharya returned to the University of Arizona where he presently
resides as Professor of Mathematics.

Bhattacharya's honors and awards are many. They include two special in-
vited papers in the Annals of Probability (1977) and the Annals of Applied
Probability (1999). He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Mathemati-
cal Statistics in 1978. He is recipient of a Humboldt Prize 1994-95, and was a
Guggenheim Fellow during the year 2000. Extreme generosity in sharing ideas is
a hallmark of Rabi Bhattacharya's personality. Nine students completed Ph.D.
degrees under his direction and one is currently in progress. Besides these he has
helped many others through his consistent and thorough dedication to teaching,
research and professional service.

Bhattacharya served as Associate Editor on a number of journals throughout
his career, ranging from the Annals of Probability, Journal of Statistical Plan-
ning and Inference, Econometric Theory, and Journal of Multivariate Analysis,
Statistica Sinica. He currently serves as co-coordinating Editor of Journal of
Statistical Planning and Inference, and as an Associate Editor for Statistica
Sinica and for the Annals of Probability. He served as an elected member of the

Institute of Mathematical Statistics Council from 1998 to 2001.

Upon retirement from Indiana University his colleagues and students honored his years of service to the department and university with the following tribute penned by Richard Bradley: "Both in his dealings with people and in his perspective on the university, academic life, and the world at large, Rabi has consistently shown a deep humanity. This is manifested in the way he treats his students, his colleagues, and everybody else he deals with." This volume of articles is continued tribute to his valued contributions.