

Preface

In the broader domain of Statistics and Probability theory, Jana Jurečková is a distinguished researcher, especially in Europe and among the women researchers. Her fundamental research contributions stemmed from the inspiring ideas of her advisor Jaroslav Hájek and covered the evolving areas of nonparametrics, general asymptotic theory, robust statistics, as well as, applications in sampling theory, econometrics and environmetrics.

She has a longstanding and exemplary leadership to the academics; the Czech (oslovakian) school of statistics has indeed benefited from her professional acumen.

Jana has an illuminating career in the Department of Probability and Mathematical Statistics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague, for over forty years.

It was thought that at the juncture of her career, Jana should be honored and recognized for her standing in her professional field.

The idea of floating this Festschrift was essentially due to the three editors of this volume and, in addition, the spontaneous response from her colleagues far beyond the boundaries of her native country has been truly inspiring. Jana has a long list of collaborators and former advisees too. Because of time and space constraints, not all of them were invited to contribute to this Festschrift, and a chosen handful of contributors with professional standing have spanned the broad area of Jana's research interest.

Besides an article of appreciation of Jana's life and work by the three editors, there are twenty-four articles with a list of co-authors over 40. All these articles have gone through the usual peer-reviewing in strict adherence to the high standards of the IMS Lecture Notes and Collection Series. To all the reviewers we have deep gratitude for their most timely job. To the contributors we are truly grateful for their willingness to contribute in a relatively short time and to many of them for refereeing some other submitted articles. We could not have reached this stage of the Festschrift without their support and interest.

Last but not the least, our profound thanks are due to the Department of Probability and Mathematical Statistics, at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at Charles University in Prague for their enthusiastic support in all respects.

We would like to thank Blanka Anfilová for all administrative assistance and Iva Marešová for meticulous job with the electronic preparation of the manuscript during the reviewing stage as well as the final phase.

We are indeed very grateful to the IMS Editorial Office for their constant assistance from the initiation of this project to its very completion. Initial contact with Professor Anirban Dasgupta (editor of the IMS Collection Series at that time) facilitated the negotiation. In particular, IMS Executive Director Elyse Gustafson deserves our most sincere appreciation for their untiring efforts to have this volume released on time and the same applies to Production Manager Ms Geri Mattson for carrying out publications related tasks expeditiously and efficiently.

We conclude this note with a toast to Jana Jurečková for her consent to this project and occasional help too.