

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 applications 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 University, 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 invited papers in the *Annals of Probability* (1977) and the *Annals of Applied Probability* (1999). He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical 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 Planning 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