

Editorial

In 1713, the noted mathematician Jacob Bernoulli's paper *Ars Conjectandi* (Latin for Art of Conjecturing) was published, eight years after his death. It is unlikely that Bernoulli, or anyone for that matter, could have imagined the impact this article would have had, not only on the development of probability and statistics, but science at large. This paper would lay out many of the building blocks and foundational results that are taught in any first year course in statistics; from the simple distribution of the number of successes in n independent trials, which bears his name, to the law of large numbers. This law provides the basis for the frequentist view of statistics and underpins modern probability theory. But beyond this scientific framework, the law of large numbers "holds the world together in its inmost folds".

It is only natural that the Bernoulli Society would devote a special issue of its flagship journal, *Bernoulli*, to help commemorate the 300th year anniversary of the publication of *Ars Conjectandi*. In this issue, we have tried to capture a snapshot of current and future research directions in probability and statistics from leading experts in the field. As you can see from the contents, the field has evolved into many exciting and important directions well beyond what Bernoulli could have imagined. We are indebted to the authors of this issue for their contributions and for sharing their thoughts with the scientific community. It is our hope these articles will inspire all of us to be faithful to the continuing development of probability and statistics that meets the challenges faced in science, technology, and society.

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