

Parting Remarks from the Outgoing Editor

The 1992–1994 *Statistical Science* editorial board assumed its duties officially in January. Nevertheless, completing our obligations has taken the 1989–1991 editors well into the new year. Hence this belated note.

During the past 3 years, we have sought to solidify the *Statistical Science* goal of providing material to interest a wide statistical audience, including interviews, historical material and reviews. We have looked for review papers that summarize past achievements while being forward-looking and interpretive. A criterion has been to provide balance between theory and applications, because applications inspire and suggest theories (and limit theories to their useful aspects) and because theory extends the nature of applications and generalizes new applied advances for wider use. Among *Statistical Science* objectives is recognizing the heterogeneity of statisticians. So, for example, *Statistical Science* recently has provided articles to help meet the needs of new researchers, of graduate students and of women, and to recognize international leaders in statistics and probability.

At its core *Statistical Science* is about research, but it attempts to serve a wide audience. Some authors of fine research papers, not realizing that their subject will have limited interest, or that the paper is not written at a level to appeal to the general reader, submit their work to *Statistical Science*. These papers are appropriate for traditional research journals. Instead, the editors have sought papers, and have worked to attract papers, that offer interpretive views of progress in important research areas, useful to a wide readership, and written to be accessible to nonexperts.

The many especially important contributors to *Statistical Science* during these years include its editors, Ingram Olkin, Adrian Smith, Stephen Stigler and Jim Zidek. We were an intact group for all 3 years, and three of these editors also served during the DeGroot era: Olkin since 1986 (with Morrie DeGroot, the co-founder of the journal), and Stigler and Zidek since 1987. Their vision and ability to locate and to inspire good material, as well as to evaluate it, was at the core of any success we had. Roger Berger, and before him, Paul Shaman, worked diligently as managing editors, and contributed much toward journal policies and the final copy. I especially would like to thank the editorial assistants, Gayla Lee, 1989–1990, at the University of Texas, and Mary Stilwell, 1990–1992, at Harvard. This journal could not have been created without their tireless and effective efforts. But it is to the authors, to the discussants, to the interviewers and to those others who contributed their ideas and interpretations to these pages that we owe our greatest appreciation.

Statistical Science seems now to be stabilized, and to enjoy a regular and large readership. Helping to create this journal has been a joyful and meaningful experience for me. We of the 1989–1991 editorial board wish the new editors success and more joy with *Statistical Science* in the future.

Carl N. Morris
Executive Editor, 1989–1991