PREFACE

This Issue (No. 2) of the Volume 18 of *Statistics and Applications* has been brought out to felicitate the twin statisticians, Bimal Kumar Sinha and Bikas Kumar Sinha (twin brothers) and honour them on their 75th birthday that falls on 16 March 2021.

In March, 2019, Prof. Pranab K. Sen had suggested to Prof. Vinod K. Gupta that a special issue of the journal *Statistics and Applications* may be brought out to honour and felicitate the twin statisticians on their 75th birthday. The proposal was accepted with pleasure by the Editorial Board of the journal. It was also decided that this special issue would be titled *"Challenges and Opportunities in Statistical Data Designing and Inference in the Emerging Global Scenario."*

Prof. Sen also suggested some possible names for consideration as Guest Editors for this issue of the journal. Accordingly, in a discussion between Prof. Sen, the (then) Chair Editor Late Prof. Aloke Dey and the Editorial Board of the journal, it was decided that Aloke Dey, Sanat K. Sarkar, Ayanendranath Basu and Vinod K. Gupta would act as the Guest Editors of this special issue. In consultation with the twin statisticians, the Guest Editors prepared a list of authors to whom invitations were sent for possible contributions to the special issue. The list contained, by and large, authors who were students/collaborators/colleagues of the twin statisticians. It was not easy to tell the total number of research collaborators these twin statisticians have, but surely this would be no less than 180 by any stretch of imagination. There was an overwhelming response to our invitations. Almost all of those who were contacted happily agreed to contribute to this issue and offer their felicitations to these towering stalwarts who have made remarkable contributions towards the growth of statistical sciences and their innovative applications. At the end, we are immensely proud to report that this felicitation issue contains **26** excellent papers from authors spread all over the globe. Of special interest is another article prepared by Bimal and Bikas describing their life and achievements and also a list of their research publications limited to books and research papers in reviewed journals. We strongly feel that this would benefit the younger generation of researchers immensely.

It has indeed been a great pleasure and a matter of pride and honour for us to work on this project and prepare this issue as a mark of respect to these two great scientists who have made significant contributions towards the advancement of statistical thinking. Not only are they great researchers, they are also brilliant teachers and mentors who have influenced the thoughts of many young researchers and inspired them along the journey of their research. With their unparalleled love and affection and unflinching willingness to help, they have made indelible mark on the lives of many students and budding young researchers. Beyond their professional accomplishments and recognitions, they are two great human beings who are generously endowed with the qualities of gentleness, humbleness and kindness, and liked by all who make their acquaintance.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the authors who have responded positively to our request. While initially we were not entirely sure about what to expect, we are pleasantly overwhelmed by the actual level of response from the authors. The reviewers, the unobservable layer without which the process of journal publication cannot function properly, have also been prompt and thorough; we are indebted to all of them and thank them sincerely for their support. We would like to place on record our highest admiration for Dr. Rajender Parsad, Executive Editor and Dr. B.N. Mandal, Managing Editor, and the Editorial Board of *Statistics and Applications* for their support and for entrusting their faith on the Guest Editors

for bringing out this special issue in honour of the twin statisticians. The Guest Editors, in turn, are greatly honoured by this responsibility. The help received from Dr. B.N. Mandal for bringing the papers in the format of the journal is highly appreciated. The template provided by Prof. Jyotirmoy Sarkar for preparing articles in LATEX was a tremendous help and we generously thank Prof. Sarkar for his support. Prof. Sarkar and Dr. B.N. Mandal have later modified the template further.

The issue contains papers of high academic standards covering a wide spectrum of statistical research. We are confident that the readers would find these papers enjoyable to read and generating newer ideas for advancing research in statistical sciences. It is hoped that the volume will be a fitting commemoration of the 75 year milestone of the illustrious and celebrated Sinha brothers. We wish Bimal and Bikas a long and healthy life so that the statistics community continues to benefit from their brilliance, knowledge, experience and wisdom for a long time.

V.K. Gupta
Sanat K. Sarkar
Ayanendranath Basu

Unfortunately, on 10 February 2020, Prof Aloke Dey left for his heavenly abode after a brief illness. It was decided that we shall not seek any replacement and the remaining three of us would continue as Guest Editors and complete the project in time. The responsibility of Prof. Aloke Dey was discharged jointly by the three guest editors adequately and the project could be completed well within the stipulated time, in fact ahead of time. Vinod K. Gupta shared the key responsibility of coordinating with the authors, the reviewers and the other guest editors. We take this opportunity to express our grief and condolences to the bereaved family and pray for the liberation of the noble soul. Om Shanti!!

GUEST EDITORS

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