

FOREWORD

It is indeed a pleasure to write this Foreword note in favor of two outstanding statisticians of our time: Bimal and Bikas Sinha, whom we affectionately address as the "*Statistical Twins*". They were born in 1946 in the village Atgharia in Pabna District of Bengal Province in undivided India, a year before the region was engulfed in the newly created East Pakistan (which later gave birth to Bangladesh in 1971 December). The Sinha family migrated to Kolkata, West Bengal, India, in 1958 when they were just 12 years old. For 12 years to follow, they had hard economic time, albeit both Bimal and Bikas excelled in their college education and earned their Ph.D. degrees in Statistics in 1972-1973 under the able guidance of [Late] Professor Hari Kinkar Nandi in Calcutta University. I have known them since 1968 when they started working on their dissertations in two disjoint areas: Bimal on Bayesian Inference, and Bikas on Optimal Designs. During the past fifty years their research and organizational accomplishment may simply be categorized as outstanding. Both stretched their research work in diverse areas with little overlap to each other, and they have taken leading roles in the development of Statistical Science all over the world. Bimal has been more visible in USA, Europe, Africa, Thailand and Australia, while Bikas in Brazil, USA, Europe and more actively in India, Bangladesh and the South Asian Countries. In Bangladesh, they regard Bikas and Bimal as their native sons and owe to Bikas a deep sense of gratitude for his tireless efforts to promote and organize Int'l Conferences in Statistics at Rajshahi University. I wish [Late] Professor H.K. Nandi were alive to witness the fundamental contributions of his outstanding advisees Bimal and Bikas. I am really deputizing [Late] Professor Nandi, my advisor too, in writing this foreword note. There is an accompanying detailed document in this volume on their vitae and significant contributions which depicts the details. There are some twenty five contributors of high academic stand to this volume; all of these contributors have known Bimal and Bikas, have mostly collaborated with them in research and organizational tasks and I would like to thank each of them for showing this support and respect for the statistical twins. Finally, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the Guest-Editors (Vinod Gupta, Sanat Sarkar and Ayanendranath Basu) for their time and efforts to make this volume a true collection of notes of appreciation from all of us. Bimal and Bikas are now about 75 years old, and they are in excellent academic stand; we wish them a continuation of long and active career in the years ahead too.

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