

Foreword

This issue of REVSTAT is dedicated to Professors Bimal K. Sinha and Bikas K. Sinha on the occasion of their 70th birthday.

Professors Bimal K. Sinha and Bikas K. Sinha [Statistical Twins – as mentioned in the IMS Bulletin, 1990] were born on the 16th of March, 1946 in undivided India in the village of Atgharia, District Pabna, now in Bangladesh. The Sinha family migrated to India in the 1950's. Along the years Sinha Brothers emerged as two very distinct Statisticians, taking distinct paths in their professional lives.

Bimal K. Sinha got his Ph.D. in 1973 from the University of Calcutta, India. A former faculty of the Indian Statistical Institute and the University of Pittsburgh, Bimal Sinha joined UMBC (University of Maryland Baltimore County) in 1985 as a Professor of Statistics and Founder of Statistics Graduate Program. Professor Sinha received the prestigious recognition of UMBC's Presidential Research Professorship and also the University System of Maryland Board of Regents Research Professorship. A Fellow of both the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) and the American Statistical Association (ASA), Professor Sinha is the author of four books, more than 150 research articles, and supervised about 30 PhD students. For over twenty years, Professor Sinha worked on many aspects of environmental statistics, and his recent research focuses on 'Data analysis under confidentiality protection' at the US Census Bureau.

Bikas K. Sinha got his Ph.D. in 1972 also from the University of Calcutta, India. A former faculty of the Calcutta University Department of Statistics (1972–1975) and a Visiting Faculty at the Institute of Mathematics, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil (1975–1979), Bikas Sinha joined the world famous Indian Statistical Institute at its Calcutta Centre as an Associate Professor of Statistics (1979–1984) and was promoted to Professor of Statistics (1985–2011). Bikas Sinha served extensively several universities in the USA as Visiting Scientist/Visiting Professor with teaching and research assignments. He has collaborated with statisticians within India and abroad as also spanning over several continents with an impressive record of more than 90 research collaborators. An Expert on Missions of the United Nations, Professor Bikas Sinha is the author/co-author of Springer-Verlag Monographs and Graduate-Level Text Books (Wiley & Sage) and has over 140 published research articles. His expertise centers around Optimal Experimental Designs and Finite Population Inference. He had one doctoral student each at Calcutta University and ISI, Calcutta. Besides, numerous students within India and abroad sought his academic mentorship for their research studies.

Professor Bimal K. Sinha served on Editorial Boards in a number of sta-

tistical Journals. He was co-editor of *Sankhya*, Series A (1981–1997) and Series B (1998–1999), Editorial Board Member of the *Journal of Multivariate Analysis* (1981–1982) and of the *Handbook of Statistics*, Vol. 2, Editor of the *Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin* (2003–2007), Associate Editor of the *Journal of Applied Statistical Science* (1992 on), of the *Journal of Environmental Statistics* (1992 on), of the *Journal of Environmental Modeling and Assessment* (1994 on), of *Statistics and Decisions* (1993–2001) and of the *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference* (1994–2002).

In addition to the awards and distinctions already mentioned above, Professor Bimal Sinha is also an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute, and received in 2002 the American Statistical Association, Section on Statistics and the Environment, Distinguished Achievement Medal Award and in 2012 the University System of Maryland Board of Regents Award for Excellence in Research.

Professor Bikas K. Sinha was also a member of the Editorial Board of a large number of statistical Journals. He served as Editorial Board Member of *Sankhya* (1985–1995), as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference* (1992–1997) and of the *Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin* (1988–1992) where he also served as Editor, from 1993 to 2000. He also had editorship duties in the *Pakistan Journal of Statistics*, *International Journal of Statistical Science*, *Statistical Methodology*, *Statistics*, *Statistics & Decisions* and the *Journal of Combinatorics & Information System Sciences*.

Professor Bikas Sinha also received a number of awards, among which are the P. C. Mahalanobis Gold Medal in 1980. He is an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute since 1985, and was President of the Indian Science Congress, Statistics Section (2000–2001) and Member of the National Statistical Commission of the Government of India (2006–2009). In the recent past, Professor Bikas Sinha has been a regular visitor at the US Bureau of Census under the ‘Summer at Census’ visitor plan.

Carlos A. Coelho
Filipe J. Marques