Editorial: Thank you all for the timely Journal we have

Ganapati P. Patil

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1 Introduction and motivation for thank you all

It is now some forty years that I have been in foundational initiatives and leadership roles for statistical ecology and environmental statistics, of which some 20 years devoted to founding and editing of this Journal, with its editorial headquarters at the Penn State Center for Statistical Ecology and Environmental Statistics, of which I have been the founding director for its disciplinary and cross-disciplinary research, training, and outreach. Each one of these undertakings has been quite successful and satisfying indeed. Thank you all of the triadic statistics, ecology, and environment community for your enthusiastic participation and cooperation. It is now appropriate in these beginnings of the present century to hand over this wonderful Journal to you all, with Pierre Dutilleul and Ashis Sengupta as editor-in chiefs. Let us continue to be in good shape, continuing our mutual interest and quality attention in a timely manner. I will be also glad to be on hand for any special events and issues.

On this significant transition, it is natural that we look back with a forward look, starting especially with our versatile renowned editorial community, and recalling our timely special issues with matching guest editors. Also, we may wish to make a note of the inspirational events and articles, published from time to time, as listed selectively in the references at the end for our individual and collective reflection.

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2 Versatile cross disciplinary editorial community of the Journal

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3 Timely special issues and matching guest editors

Volume 4, Issue 2, June 1997

Title: Special issue Environmental monitoring and assessment

Guest Editor: Anthony R. Olsen

Volume 5, Issue 2, June 1998

Title: Special issue on space-time processes in environmental and ecological studies

Guest Editor: Peter Guttorp

Volume 6, Issue 1, April 1999

Title: Special issue on statistical design and analysis with ranked set samples

Guest Editors: N. Phillip Ross and Lynne Stokes

Volume 7, Issue 1, March 2000

Title: Special issue on statistical toxicology and toxicological statistics

Guest Editor: Wolfgang Urfer

Volume 7, Issue 3, September 2000

Title: Statistical ecology and forest biometry

Guest Editors: Timothy G. Gregoire and Michael Kohl

Volume 8, Issue 2, June 2001

Title: Special issue on composite sampling

Guest Editors: Barry D. Nussbaum and Richard O. Gilbert

Volume 8, Issue 4, December 2001

Title: Spatial statistics for production ecology and resource conservation

Guest Editor: Alfred Stein

Volume 10, Issue 1, March 2003

Title: Special issue on adaptive sampling

Guest Editor: Steven K. Thompson

Volume 10, Issue 3, September 2003

Title: Special Issue on Map Accuracy

Guest Editors: Stephen V. Stehman and Raymond L. Czaplewski

Volume 11, Issue 1, March 2004

Title: Special Institutional Thematic Issue: National Research Center for Statistics and the Environment, University of Washington

Guest Editors: Peter Guttorp and Paul D. Sampson

Volume 11, Issue 2, June 2004

Title: Special institutional thematic issue: Center for Statistical Ecology and Environmental

Statistics, Penn State University

Guest Editor: G. P. Patil

Volume 11, Issue 4, December 2004

Title: Special Issue on Statistical Methods and Techniques for Analyzing Spatial and Temporal-Spatial Data

Guest Editor: Timothy G Gregoire

Volume 12, Issue 3, September 2005

Title: Special Issue on Environmental Exposure and Small Area Data

Guest Editor: Andrew B. Lawson

Volume 12, Issue 4, December 2005

Title: Special Issue on Environmental Exposure and Small Area Data

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Volume 13, Issue 3, September 2006

Title: Special Issue on Analyses of Directional Data in Ecological and Environmental Sciences

Guest Editors: Barry C. Arnold and Ashis SenGupta

Volume 13, Issue 4, December 2006

Title: Special Institutional Thematic Issue: Penn State Cross-Disciplinary Classroom in Statistical Ecology and Environmental Statistics

Guest Editor: G. P. Patil

Volume 14, Issue 1, March 2007

Title: Special Issue on the Application of Spatial Statistics to Agriculture, Ecology, and the Environment (to be continued in Volume 14:2)

Guest Editor: N. Scott Urquhart

Volume 14, Issue 2, June 2007

Title: Special Issue on the Application of Spatial Statistics to Agriculture, Ecology, and the Environment (continued from Volume 14:1)

Guest Editor: N. Scott Urquhart

Volume 14, Issue 3, September 2007

Title: Spatial and Spatio-temporal Modeling in Environmental and Ecological Statistics

Guest Editor: Alan Gelfand

Volume 15, Issue 1, March 2008

Title: Special Issue on the New Development of Statistical Analysis in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecological Research

Guest Editors: Chong He and Linda Young

Volume 15, Issue 3, September 2008

Title: Special Issue on Statistics in Disease Ecology

Guest Editor: Lance A. Waller

Volume 15, Issue 4, December 2008

Title: Special Issue on Spatial Statistics for Boundary and Patch Analysis

Guest Editors: Geoffrey M. Jacquez, Marie-Josée Fortin, and Pierre Goovaerts

Volume 16, Issue 1, March 2009

Title: Special Issue on Modern Benchmark Analysis for Environmental Risk Assessment

Guest Editors: R. Webster West and Walter W. Piegorsch

Volume 16, Issue 2, June 2009

Title: Special Issue on Statistics for Wildfire Processes

Guest Editor: Marcia Gumpertz

Volume 17, Issue 2, June 2010

Title: Special Issue on Surveillance Hotspot GeoInformatics

Guest Editor: G. P. Patil

Volume 17, Issue 4, December 2010

Title: Special Issue on Ranking and Prioritization with Multiple Indicators in Digital Governance and Surveillance Hotspot GeoInformatics

Guest Editor: Ganapati P. Patil

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Bio in brief of the founding editor-in-chief

Dr. G. P. Patil is a Distinguished Professor of Mathematical and Environmental Statistics Emeritus in the Department of Statistics at the Pennsylvania State University, and is a former Visiting Professor of Biostatistics at Harvard University in the Harvard School of Public Health.

He has a Ph.D. in Mathematics, D.Sc. in Statistics, one Honorary Degree in Biological Sciences, and another Honorary Degree in Letters. He is a Fellow of American Statistical Association, Fellow of American Association of Advancement of Science, Fellow of Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute, Founder Fellow of National Institute of Ecology and Indian Society for Medical Statistics.

He has been a founder of Statistical Ecology Section of Ecological Society of America, a founder of Statistics and Environment Section of American Statistical Association, and a founder of the International Society for Risk Analysis, International Society for EcoHealth, Society for Syndromic Surveillance and Digital Government Society of North America. He is founding editor-in-chief of the international journal, *Environmental and Ecological Statistics* and founding director of the Penn State Center for Statistical Ecology and Environmental Statistics.

Dr. Patil has published thirty volumes and three hundred research papers. He has received several distinguished awards which include: Distinguished Statistical Ecologist Award of the International Association for ecology, Distinguished Achievement Medal for Statistics and the Environment of the American Statistical Association, Best Paper Award of the American Fisheries Society, and the Best Paper Award of the American Water Resources Association.

He was a member of the UNEP Science Advisory Panel with Nobel Laureate Mario Molina for the UNEP Division of Environmental Assessment and Early Warning. He recently served on the NSF Panel for Homeland Security and Geographic Information Systems. He has been on the Science Advisory Board of the Spatial Accuracy Symposia. In the recent past, he has served on the EPA Science Advisory Board Regional Vulnerability Assessment Panel and chaired a UNEP Expert Panel for Human Environment Index.

Dr. Patil has been recently principal investigator of a large NSF project on digital governance and surveillance hotspot geoinformatics for monitoring, etiology, early warning, and sustainable development. This has involved upper level set scan based geospatial and spatiotemporal hotspot detection and partial order theory based multi-criteria ranking and prioritization with several national and international live case studies.