Editorial introduction

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Published online: 21 February 2009

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Having served as editor-in-chief of *QUESTA* for the five-year period 2004–2008, I feel it is the right time to step down. I am most pleased to announce that Sergey Foss has agreed to be my successor. Sergey has been an associate editor of our journal since Vol. 13 (1993). He is a leading expert in the area of applied probability, with vast expertise in queueing theory and the broader area of stochastic networks. Under his leadership, *QUESTA* will undoubtedly continue to flourish as the leading international journal devoted to queueing systems and their applications. In 2009 Sergey Foss will already handle the new submissions, while I shall continue to handle old submissions until the end of the year.

It has been a real pleasure to work with the editorial board of *QUESTA*. I gratefully acknowledge their support, dedication and wise judgment. It has been an honour and a privilege to be allowed to follow the footsteps of former editors-in-chief Uma Prabhu and Dick Serfozo. Thanks to their efforts, *QUESTA* has established queueing systems more firmly as a distinct area for research, and has given the queueing community more professional visibility.

2009 is going to be a special year for queueing theory. In 1909 A.K. Erlang published his paper “The theory of probabilities and telephone conversations” (Nyt Tidsskrift for Matematik B, Vol. 20), which may be considered to be the first publication in queueing theory. To celebrate the centennial of queueing theory, a conference “100 years of queueing—The Erlang centennial” will be organized in Copenhagen, on April 1–3, 2009. Volume 63 of *QUESTA*, the last volume of 2009, will be devoted to the invited and contributed papers which will be presented on that occasion.

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