

A Guest Editorial
Nitis Mukhopadhyay
University of Connecticut-Storrs, USA

More than three years ago, the *Institute of Applied Statistics, Sri Lanka* (IASSL) was recognized by the Sri Lankan Parliament. IASSL's flagship publication, *Sri Lankan Journal of Applied Statistics* (SLJAS), is now in its 15th year (vol. 14). SLJAS has significantly updated its editorial board and added a layer of Editorial Advisory Board consisting of Professors C. R. Rao, Tim Swartz, Shelton Peiris and myself.

One will recall that the year 2013 was designated as the International Year of Statistics. All put together, this has been a perfect time for a celebration of statistics. Hence, at the request of IASSL, I had personally volunteered to edit a special issue of SLJAS covering a broad range of research topics from contemporary statistical science.

Sri Lanka has come a long way and I admire and applaud its effort in statistical education, research, and service. Personally, I appreciate the genuine humility and warmth of my Sri Lankan colleagues. Hence, I have come forward to help the journal, SLJAS, in a small way with the hope to boost its international visibility.

In preparation, I requested some of my esteemed colleagues to contribute samplings of their best and most up-to-date research papers for possible publication in this special issue. The outpouring international support has been overwhelming and I truly feel humbled by everyone's genuineness to strengthen the journal's existing superb quality and visibility to a possible new height.

I remain truly grateful to all the authors whose invited papers have filled the pages of this special issue. I thank all of them earnestly. By the way, it should be understood that all these invited papers have gone through the journal's strict review process. While I am on that topic, I express my deepest gratitude to all the referees who diligently reviewed these contributions within working deadlines that I had put in place.

Also, I take this opportunity to thank numerous colleagues from all over the globe who wholeheartedly supported this initiative, but just could not accommodate the tightly set deadlines to contribute their papers. I miss their contributions very much, but I also hope that they will consider SLJAS in the future for showcasing their cutting-edge research by publishing (subject to peer reviewing) in it.

I remain grateful for the kind support received from all my wonderful colleagues associated with IASSL and SLJAS. Their dedication to lead IASSL and SLJAS move forward remain exemplary with unmatched support from many committed Sri Lankan colleagues. It is their steadfast trust that gave me the strength to shoulder full editorial responsibilities to put together this special issue.

**This Special Issue Is Dedicated To All
Who Love Statistical Science**