

Preface

The 22nd annual Applied Statistics Symposium of the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), jointly with the International Society for Biopharmaceutical Statistics (ISBS) was successfully held from June 9 to June 12, 2013 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Bethesda, Maryland, USA. The theme of this joint conference was “Globalization of Statistical Applications,” in recognition of the celebration of the International Year of Statistics, 2013. The conference attracted about 500 attendees from academia, industry, and governments around the world. A sizable number of attendees were from nine countries other than the USA. The conference offered five short courses, four keynote lectures, and 90 parallel scientific sessions.

The 29 selected papers from the presentations in this volume cover a wide range of applied statistical topics in biomedicine and clinical research, including Bayesian methods, diagnostic medicine and classification, innovative clinical trial designs and analysis, and personalized medicine. All papers have gone through normal peer-review process, read by at least one referee and an editor. Acceptance of a paper was made after the comments raised by the referee and editor were adequately addressed.

During the preparation of the book, a tragic event occurred that saddened the ICSA community. Dr. Gang Zheng of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) lost his battle with cancer on January 9, 2014. An innovative and influential statistician, Dr. Zheng was also a dedicated permanent member of the ICSA, a member of many ICSA committees, including the ICSA Board of Directors from 2008 to 2010. We would like to dedicate this entire volume to Dr. Gang Zheng, a great colleague and dear friend to many of us!

The completion of this volume would not have been possible without each of the contributing authors. We thank them for their positive responses to the volume, their willingness to contribute, and their persistence, patience, and dedication. We would also like to thank many referees for spending their valuable time to help review the manuscripts. Last, but not least, we thank Hannah Bracken of Springer for her wonderful assistance throughout the entire process of completing the book.

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