Preface

This Special Issue is Devoted to Abram Kagan on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday

The international workshop **Perspectives in Modern Statistical Inference III, Mikulov, July 17-22, 2005**, a satellite to the European Meeting of Statisticians in Oslo, was organized jointly by Department of Probability and Statistics, Charles University in Prague, by Department of Applied Mathematics, Masaryk University in Brno, by Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists, and by Czech Statistical Society.

The workshop followed two former successful workshops of the same names, that took place in Prague in August 1998 and in Brno in August 2002. Similarly as the former workshops, also the present one focused mainly on recent results in parametric, semiparametric and nonparametric statistical inference, and enjoyed many interesting talks presented by outstanding specialists in the area. We were happy that among the excellent speakers, most of the speakers from 1998 and 2002 accepted again our invitation. Many invited talks of the workshop form the contents of this special issue.

We use this occasion to thank cordially all speakers and participants for their coming and making the program so interesting, and creating the nice atmosphere in Mikulov.

We highly appreciate the help of the referees, who kindly read the papers submitted for publication in the special issue. Namely, we thank the following colleagues for their help: O. Arslan (Cukurova University); J. Anděl (Charles University); P. Čížek (Tilburg University); P. Dostál (Charles University); V. Dupač (Charles University); Y. Golubev (Université de Marseilles); P. Filzmoser (Technische Universität Wien); J. Hannig (Colorado State University); Z. Hlávka (Charles University); D. Hlubinka (Charles University); M. Hušková (Charles University); I. Van Keilegom (Université catholique de Louvain); L. Klebanov (Charles University); P. Klášterecký (Charles University); K. Knight (University of Toronto), J. Koláček (Masaryk University); L. Kubáček (Palacký University, Olomouc); M. Kulich (Charles University); P. Lachout (Charles University); L. LaMotte (Lousiana State University); F. Liese (Universität Rostock); J. Michálek (Masaryk University); H. Oja (University of Tampere); M. Omelka (Charles University); D. Paindaveine (Université Libre de Bruxelles); Z. Pawlas (Charles University); J. Picek (Technical University, Liberec); J. Ramík (Silesian University, Opava); I. Saxl (Charles University); M. Schindler (Charles University); M. Studený, M. Šmíd, P. Volf (all Inst. Information and Automation, Prague); G. Wimmer (Masaryk University); V. Witkovský (Slovak Academy of Science, Bratislava); J. Zelinka (Masaryk University).

We cordially thank Prof. Dr. Herwig Friedl, Editor of the Austrian Journal of Statistics, for his kind offer to devote the special issue to the workshop, and Prof. Dr. Peter Filzmoser for his kind help and assistance. We believe that the readers will find many papers of their interest, and that we shall meet again on one of the next workshops.

Jana Jurečková, *Guest Editor*
Ivana Horová, *Local Organizer*

The organizers of the workshop highly appreciate the kind support of

- *Research Project 1P05ME829 of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Czech Republic;*
- *European Science Foundation Scientific Network "Statistical Analysis of Complex Data with Robust and Related Statistical Methods";*
- *AutoCont CZ, a.s. Brno SC&C Partner, s.r.o., Brno;*
- *HomeCredit, Brno;*
- *Czech Software First, s.r.o., Brno;*
- *TriloByte, s.r.o., Statistical Software, Pardubice;*
- *RSJ Invest, a.s., Praha;*
- *Hotel Zámeček, Hotelová škola Mikulov;*
- *René Zeman, RZ Centrum, velkoobchod s papírem a kancelářskými potřebami, Brno;*
- *Regional Museum and Cultural Centre of Mikulov*