

## PREFACE

The 211th IMS meeting was a special Symposium on Applied Probability and was cosponsored by the University of Sheffield. The purpose of the Symposium was to focus attention on some of the more prominent directions in applied probability. The Symposium was part of an IMS initiative to increase involvement in probability and its applications, and it also served as an opportunity to acknowledge the many contributions of Joe Gani to applied probability and the profession. Consequently, it was very appropriate that the Symposium was held at The University of Sheffield.

The program co-chairs, Chris Cannings and N. U. Prabhu, are commended for organizing an excellent program involving 64 speakers and over 150 participants. Particular details on the program and speakers appeared in several issues of the IMS BULLETIN during 1989 & 1990. This volume of selected proceedings of some of the papers from the Symposium represents the quality and scope of the presentations. These papers were carefully refereed, revised and edited. Eleven of the 20 papers in this volume are from invited speakers of the Symposium.

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The editors are most grateful to the referees who are listed on page 278 for their careful and punctual work with respect to the submitted manuscripts. Sankar Sethuraman and Dharma Thiruvaiyaru worked very diligently in proof-reading the retyped and edited manuscripts for accuracy. Special thanks go to Connie Doss and Victor Grubbs who were responsible for the final typing and electronic transfers of manuscripts.