

## Foreword

The 6<sup>th</sup> Brazilian School of Probability was held in Ubatuba–SP in August 5-10, 2002. This volume presents thoroughly refereed selected full papers written by participants, following the standards of the *Bulletin of the Brazilian Mathematical Society*. The subject of the articles range from the mainstream of theoretical probability to current topics of interest of applied probability. Even though they are numerically only a small fraction of what was presented and discussed over the meeting, they give a good picture of the atmosphere of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the School.

The Brazilian School of Probability has kept its international standard of quality and has increased its number of participants continuously from the first edition in 1997. In this 6<sup>th</sup> edition we had over 110 participants including more than 50 researchers coming from 15 countries. The program was designed to fit 2 short-courses, 10 invited seniors speakers, 30 short talks and 2 poster sections with more than 40 participants. Probability in Genetics was the topic for a round table, bringing together researchers from different mathematical areas.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the other members of the organizing committee, namely Roberto Fernández, Nancy Garcia and Gregory Maillard, and the members of the scientific committee. Special thanks go to the friendly and hard working staff of IME-USP and IMPA, coordinated respectively by Lourdes Netto and Sueley de Melo; in fact, they have been partners of the success of the Brazilian School of Probability for all these years. We are happy to state that the School was an activity of Instituto do Milênio “Avanço Global e Integrado da Matemática Brasileira”. We are also very thankful for the kind support from the following agencies: FAPESP, through the theme project “Fenômenos Críticos em Processos Evolutivos e Sistemas em Equilíbrio”; CNPq, through the PRONEX project “Fenômenos Críticos em Probabilidade e Processos Estocásticos”; CAPES; ICTP; SBM; and the international agreements USP/COFECUB, Brasil/França, CAPES/DAAD, Academia Brasileira de Ciências/Indian Academy of Science. Last but not least, we thank the speakers and

all participants for a very inspiring week.

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