

Preface

This special issue of the *Bulletin of the Brazilian Mathematical Society* contains articles presented at the Fifth Brazilian School in Probability held at Ubatuba, from July 30 to August 4, 2001.

The Brazilian School in Probability, which began in 1997 with a meeting at IMPA in Rio de Janeiro, is organized each year in the first week of August. The goals of the conference include

- to provide a balanced and broad overview of current research in probability and areas of application,
- to bring together distinguished scholars from all over the world,
- to provide a forum for junior researchers who will help shape future directions in the field.

The conference program is a mix of short courses accessible to Ph. D. students on areas in probability where recent and important developments were made, plenary invited lectures delivered by prominent scientists, and parallel sessions for contributed talks. It is also designed to allow time for research discussions outside the formal presentations. Since its first edition, the school has been a recognized forum for new developments and trends in theoretical and applied probability.

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