

## OPENING

Dear Colleagues, we are glad to open this conference in honor of the 90th anniversary of the remarkable mathematician Rafail Khasminskii. He was born June 6, 1931. What happened after this date (some of the history) is reflected in the short memoir “My Life in USSR” written by prof. Khasminskii, which appears on the conference site. His fundamental contributions in partial differential equations, in probability theory and in mathematical statistics are well known and your presence at this conference is a good confirmation of that. We do not have time to speak about all his results and, instead, I would like to recall the good old times fifty years ago, when Rafail Khasminskii held a seminar in the Institute of Information Transmission Problems in Moscow. Many young PhD students, having different supervisors, participated in its work and had a great opportunity to learn asymptotic statistics firsthand. Such notions as LAN, parametric and nonparametric minimax, results for the “signal in white Gaussian noise” model, etc. were explained in detail and helped the students to become statisticians. The names of these statisticians appear among organizers, speakers and participants of this conference. At those times I was lucky to be one of them and today we would like to thank Rafail Zalmanovich for his contribution to our becoming. I am sure this feeling is shared by many in the audience.

Before we start, I wish all of us to meet our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversaries with new mathematical results in hand.

Concerning the schedule of this conference: each speaker has 30 minutes for the talk and 5 min to answer one or two questions in short. The questions have to be posted in chat and the Chairman will select and read out.

We suppose to publish a special issue of Statistical Inference for Stochastic processes devoted to this event. Of course for this issue we will accept the manuscripts on all subjects presented on this conference.