Marius Iosifescu, a Leading Figure of Romanian Mathematics

Lucian Beznea and Vasile Brînzănescu

At the beginning of our academic career we knew the name of the mathematician Marius Iosifescu, a renowned specialist, fellow of the Onicescu-Mihoc school in probability theory. Chains with complete connections, a remarkable contribution of the Romanian mathematical school to the theory of probability, cannot be presented without mentioning his results in the domain.

We learned about the Markov chains from his booklet published in the seventies in Romanian language. In fact, this text become a classical one published by *Editura Tehnică*, Bucharest, and then, as a revised expanded English translation in 1980, by *John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.* This edition was unanimously acclaimed and has a great success. Consequently, the book was republished in 2007 in the series *Dover Books on Mathematics.*

We also have to mention the applications of the random systems with complete connections, which are extensions of the Markov chains, obtained by Marius Iosifescu in Probabilistic Number Theory, related to continued-fraction expansions. Another important achievement is a probabilistic framework for the Riemann hypothesis, concerning the complex zeros of the Zeta function.

Marius Iosifescu is since forty years (1976) the director of the Center of Mathematical Statistics, the nowadays Institute of Mathematical Statistics and Applied Mathematics of the Romanian Academy. We participate since many years to the scientific events organized by this institution. We only mention the famous stochastic processes seminar from the eighties, where the Malliavin calculus was the main topic. At that time, in a so unfriendly social and political frame, which drastically affected the Center, Marius Iosifescu became our protector in a very discrete but efficient way.

After 1989, as a member and later on, as vice-president of the Romanian Academy, Marius Iosifescu was deeply involved in the reconstruction of the institutes of the Academy, especially in the development of the mathematical institutes. He was for several decades the main editor of the journals "Revue Roumaine de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées" and "Mathematical Reports", published by the Romanian Academy. This difficult and time continuous work is hard to be measured.

Our institute, "Simion Stoilow" Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy (abbreviated IMAR), receives his support in all its scientific activities, he helps us with his kind advice in the coordination of the research and management of IMAR.

An European Laboratory Associated to CNRS, France, was founded at IMAR in 2007 and Marius Iosifescu was one of its initiators and always in the core of its activity. Actually, he coordinated a regular collaboration with France since 1992, when a series of French-Romanian conferences in Applied Mathematics started, organized each two years, alternatively in France and Romania. We take profit on Marius Iosifescu's long time scientific collaborations with renown research centers from other European

countries too. It was a highly nontrivial task but still a great honor and pleasure to jointly organize in 2009 the "Romanian-German Symposium on Mathematics and Its Applications", with support from the German Research Foundation.

The organization of the Congresses of Romanian Mathematicians is a special issue. The idea to resume this tradition appeared at the begining of the years two thousand. The Section of Mathematical Sciences of the Romanian Academy and IMAR were main organizers of the four last editions, in Piteşti (2003), Bucharest (2007), Braşov (2011), and Iaşi (2015). These meetings joint each four years more than four hundreds Romanian mathematicians and their friends from all over the world. Marius Iosifescu played a central role in coordinating them, from the very beginning decision of finding the locations of the congresses to the publication of the proceedings volumes.

Let us conclude with a

"Happy Birthday, Marius Iosifescu!"

and the wish to our so close and dear friend for many more years to come, productive and filled with inspiring works.

(Lucian Beznea) Simion Stoilow Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy, Research unit No. 2, P.O. Box 1-764, RO-014700 Bucharest, Romania
and University of Bucharest, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

(Vasile Brînzănescu) Simion Stoilow Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy, Research unit No. 2, P.O. Box 1-764, RO-014700 Bucharest, Romania