



Professor Jianqing Fan,
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Dear Professor Fan,

Center for Statistical Research

I was happy to meet you in Hong Kong, and delighted to learn of the imminent inauguration of the Center for Statistical Research at Academia Sinica. I am excited by this development, which properly recognises the special nature and concerns of our subject of Statistics. While it is generally appreciated that Statistics can not progress without sophisticated mathematics, it is less often understood that it is not just (if indeed at all) a branch of Mathematics. Statistics also has to pay very serious attention to deep logical and philosophical issues of the nature and purpose of scientific inference, both generic and particular; while at the same time forging close working interactions with other scientists, over an exceptionally broad field, so as to ensure it can respond appropriately to the challenges of developing novel methodology to handle the special structural and evidential problems of real scientific questions and investigations.

The Academy is to be congratulated on its vision in establishing this Center, and its fine judgment in its choice of Director and Associate Directors. I wish the Center great success, and would be delighted were it to prove possible to have some form of association with it.

I understand that the opening ceremony will be on 5 July. This will be a significant occasion, and I hope it will be a memorable one. If any occasion arises to read out messages of congratulations and support, I should be particularly happy if extracts from this letter could be included.

Once again, my sincerest congratulations and warmest good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A. P. Dawid
Professor of Statistics