

## Editorial

### Epidemics in Wildlife

In June 2004, the first international Conference on Computational and Mathematical Population Dynamics (CMPD) was held in Trento, Italy. Over 300 participants contributed their scientific work to an extended overview of the field.

This Conference was the result of merging two long-standing triennial meetings: the 7th edition of the Conference on Mathematical Population Dynamics (MPD) and the 3rd Conference on Deterministic and Stochastic Modeling of Biointeraction (DeStoBio). These two conferences had provided for nearly two decades a forum for scientific exchange and had empowered the growth of a wide community of scientists with interests in applied mathematics, computer science, biology, epidemiology, ecology.

The first meeting of the CMPD series takes advantage of the rich experience and heritage of the previous conferences, and it is also an homage to the memory of Ovide Arino who contributed himself so much to keep alive the field of population dynamics by organizing the MPD series. He was still with us when the organization of the new series started and was, in fact, the one to propose the name for the joint meeting by putting “Computational” as the first word in the title. All of us—friends, collaborators, and participants in the Conference—missed him very much during the meeting.

It was impossible to provide an extended collection of papers as proceedings of the Conference. Nevertheless some selected, peer-reviewed contributions have been grouped and prepared to be published in different journals, thus providing a significant—albeit limited—follow-up to the work hosted in Trento. A number of manuscripts, focused on the modelling of epidemics, are now ready to be presented, and they will be the content of three special issues to be published in “*Mathematical Population Studies*.”

The mathematical description of epidemics is nowadays an important chapter of population dynamics. The investigation of the mechanisms underlying the spread of infectious diseases is more and more important both for purely theoretical reasons and for the advantages that public health services may draw from their knowledge. Thus,

once more Mathematics plays its role in the rational knowledge of Nature.

The papers presented in this first issue have as a common feature the sylvatic scenario that concerns disease propagation through wild species. Thus Ecology, the other traditional chapter of population dynamics, is in the background with its own problems of species survival and conservation, but also as a possible core and mechanism of infection for humans. We hope that this selection will meet the interest of both ecologists and epidemiologists.

Our thanks go to Noël Bonneuil, the Editor in Chief of *Mathematical Population Studies*, for the attention reserved to this collection of papers and for his encouragement during the preparation of the issues.

Mimmo Iannelli  
Tanya Kostova  
Fabio Milner

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