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Preface

Linda J.S. Allen, Jia Li & Pauline van den Driessche

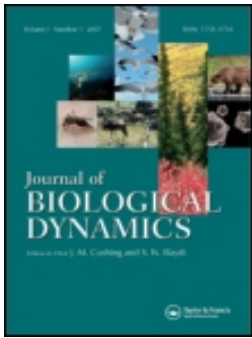
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Preface

This special issue is devoted to papers contributed by participants in The Fourth International Conference on Mathematical Modeling and Analysis of Populations in Biological Systems (ICMA IV). The conference was held at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas on 4–6 October 2013. The overall theme of the conference was mathematical modeling of complex dynamics from cells to ecosystems. The papers in this special issue include models on competition, host-parasitoid systems, Allee effects, and on evolution of dispersal. Epidemic models explore the effects of delays and vaccination on spread or control of disease. Specific epidemic models are designed to study the impact of cholera in human populations, plague in prairie dog colonies, and *Mycobacterium marinum* in fish populations. Birth-jump processes are applied to forest fire spotting, and models for chemotactic adhesion in bacterial flocs are developed.

More than 100 participants attended ICMA IV where 5 plenary talks, 60 invited and contributed talks, and 11 poster presentations were given over 2.5 days. The generous financial support of the National Science Foundation and the Mathematical Biosciences Institute enabled many early-career investigators to participate in this conference. The Conference Organizing Committee included Linda Allen (chair), Edward Allen, Bijoy Ghosh, Akif Ibragimov, Sophia Jang, Nancy McIntyre, Lih-Ing Roeger, and Richard Strauss. Members of the Scientific Advisory Committee consisted of Linda Allen, Carlos Castillo-Chavez, Avner Friedman, Natalia Komarova, and Townsend Peterson. The members of the External Advisory Committee were Jim Cushing, Saber Elaydi, and Jia Li.

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