



Professor **Radha Govind Laha**
Professor Emeritus
Bowling Green University

Radha Govind Laha was born in Calcutta, India on October 1, 1930; his primary and secondary education was completed in Calcutta. He attended Presidency College, Calcutta receiving a bachelors degree in statistics in 1949, graduating first in rank, and a masters degree statistics in 1951, with a first class. He was awarded a doctoral degree in analytical probability theory by Calcutta University in 1957. During his student years he was the recipient of many prizes and awards including the Saradprasad prize, the Duff scholarship, the S.S. Bose Gold Medal, and a University of Calcutta Silver Medal. After coming to the U.S., he was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship.

Laha joined the staff of the Theoretical Research and Training School of the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta in 1952, and by the early 1960's had established an international reputation with invitations to statistical institutes in France, Switzerland and the U.S. In 1962 he came to The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. where he stayed until 1972, at which time he moved to Bowling Green State University in Ohio (along with CUA colleagues Eugene Lukacs and Vijay Rohatgi); he retired at Bowling Green in 1996. After coming to the United States he continued to travel, spending a year at M.I.T. and summers at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and at Yale University. In 1980 he was a visiting Research Fellow at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.

Professor Laha authored several advanced texts in probability and statistics and a large number of research papers, many now included in standard statistics texts. He was fluent in Bengali, Hindi, English, French and Russian and often reviewed and translated technical research papers written in these languages. Laha was a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He was an engaging teacher and expositor, much appreciated by his colleagues and students.

Professor Laha's outside interests were in the arts, especially music and theater. He regularly traveled to New York, London and Paris to attend theatrical productions and visit cultural centers. He was well read and would engage in animated conversation on the work of both new and old playwrights and composers.

Dr. Laha died of health complications in Perrysburg, Ohio on July 14, 1999. He bequested a percentage of his estate to the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. In 2001, the IMS Council unanimously agreed to use these funds to support travel for students and new researchers to IMS meetings. These awards are named the Laha Travel Awards.