

Citation for Professor Reinaldo Arellano-Valle, 2019 Winner of the International Mahalanobis Award



The Mahalanobis International Award is sponsored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation of the Government of India and is awarded and administered by the ISI. The award recognises an individual for Lifetime Achievements in Statistics in a developing country or region, and serves the dual purposes of honouring Professor P. C. Mahalanobis and recognising and stimulating progress in Statistics in developing countries.

Professor Arellano-Valle, Department of Statistics, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, has made outstanding contributions to Statistics in a developing country and region, as an academic leader, in professional leadership and as an inspiration and capacity-builder. His lifetime achievements in statistics (especially in developing countries), and promotion of best statistical practices truly reflect the spirit of the work of Professor P.C. Mahalanobis.

Professor Arellano-Valle is a long-time academic leader in Statistics in Chile and in South America. He trained as an Engineer at the University de Chile, from where he expressed his interest and passion for the Statistics. He is the first M.S. in Statistics graduated from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and then he obtained his Ph.D. in Statistics at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil in 1994. As of today, he has published 93 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals, with numerous citations. His contributions have been immense and diverse, especially so in multivariate analysis, skewed models, multivariate modelling, measurement error models, ordered data analysis, and statistical inference based in flexible models. His work in multivariate statistics, notably as a global leader in elliptically contoured distributions and skew-elliptical distributions, is particularly apt in memory of Professor P.C. Mahalanobis who made so many seminal contributions to multivariate statistics. In addition, in his advancement of research, Professor Arellano-Valle has systematically pursued collaboration, always involving others, very often junior people, offering guidance, ideas and encouragement. This style of work is reflected in the vast number of co-authors of his many papers, many being former students of his.

Promoting and supporting junior researchers has also featured greatly in Professor Arellano-Valle's professional leadership in Statistics in Chile, across South America, and most

recently with Iranian Ph.D. students and colleagues. He has given many talks at conferences and organized various national and international conferences that have been very fruitful for young researchers from countries such as Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, and Venezuela. He served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Chilean Journal of Statistics* and has provided a forum for many researchers from South America to publish their work. He has also served as representative of Statistics in the National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development (FONDECYT) and the National Accreditation Commission (CNA) (A government agency of Chile to assess the quality of higher education in the country).

Professor Arellano-Valle is an inspiration and capacity-builder in Statistics in Chile, and in South America. He is a very sought-after advisor and has trained and inspired a large number of students of different nationalities, both at the M.S. and Ph.D. levels, who have taken jobs in academia, government, and in industry. He is also well known for his inspiring teaching at all levels. He is regarded as the mentor and the cultural leader by many statisticians in a considerable portion of South America, especially but not only of the younger generations. Moreover, his ties with scientists from Europe, North America and, more recently, Central Asia have provided links with other environments, facilitating the interaction between South America and the world.

Helen MacGillivray, ISI President
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