

PREFACE

During the Seventh International Geostatistics Congress held in 2004 in Banff, Canada, the University of Chile and its Mining Engineering Department bid to bring the Congress to South America for the first time. We thought it was the right opportunity for Chile to go back into the “geostatistics spotlight”, as it had been a few decades ago. The opening address about the *Boletín de Geoestadística* by Michel Dagbert and Alain Maréchal provides a nice kick-off for the conference, recalling that many of the practical problems that triggered the development of theoretical methods stemmed from the estimation of recoverable reserves at mining operations in Chile.

We are pleased to welcome over two hundred delegates from varied countries and backgrounds eager to share and discuss practical and theoretical developments in geostatistics. This is heightened by the fact that the Congress is not biased towards mining problems, but covers a rich variety of fields and, as always, petroleum and environmental applications abound. These proceedings compile over one hundred contributions, selected from 255 proposed abstracts initially submitted to a careful peer review process.

The organisation has been smooth thanks to the collaboration of the local and international committee members, who have provided the support and contacts to make the Congress attractive to travel from all the continents. We thank them and acknowledge their commitment to this important event.

We hope to meet your expectations (and your variances, as well).

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