Dedication

Paul Malliavin and the *Journal of Functional Analysis*

The *Journal of Functional Analysis* was conceived in 1965 and first published in 1967. Prior to the Second World War, mathematics journals, like mathematicians themselves, were less specialized than they tend to be today. However, by the 1960s, enlightened publishers recognized that specialization had set in and that there was an increasing need for journals to reflect the trend. Among the commercial publishers that served the mathematics community, Academic Press was exemplary. Under the guidance of Edwin F. Beschler, Academic Press established the *Journal of Algebra* and the *Journal of Number Theory* in the early 1960s and was soliciting advice from various mathematicians about other topics to which journals might be devoted. Acting on a suggestion made to him by Gian Carlo Rota, Beschler approached Irving E. Segal about the desirability of creating a journal specializing in functional analysis. Segal was enthusiastic about the idea, but insisted that he not play the role of czar and be allowed to share the editorship, a condition to which Beschler readily agreed. Acting with dispatch, Segal enlisted first Ralph Phillips and shortly thereafter Paul G. Malliavin to join him as the original editors-in-chief of what became the *Journal of Functional Analysis.*

From the outset, the journal reflected the enlightened tastes and open attitude of its founders. Although Segal, Phillips, and Malliavin were the editors-in-chief, they quickly assembled a distinguished editorial board and granted to each editor complete autonomy over acceptance decisions. The wisdom of this policy was apparent in the rapid ascent of the journal to the position it still holds today as the journal of choice for a diverse cross section of the analysis community. However, the history of the journal has not always been smooth. In 1969, Academic Press was acquired by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, which in 1991 was sold to General Cinema and became known as Harcourt General. The company was subsequently swallowed by Elsevier. In addition to the perturbations caused by these changes of owner, the journal was severely challenged by the deaths of Segal and Phillips, both in 1998. These losses could well have jeopardized the future of the *Journal of Functional Analysis* had it not been for Malliavin, who jumped into the breach and smoothed the transition to new leadership.

If it were not for Malliavin's tireless and effective efforts, there is a good chance that *Journal of Functional Analysis* would have faded. He recognized that the glory years of pure functional analysis had passed and that the survival of *Journal of Functional Analysis* as a vital force depended on its remaining receptive to articles in which functional analysis itself plays only a secondary role. Thus, when he renewed the editorial board, he did so with an eye to strengthening the representation in traditional areas such as partial differential equations, probability theory,

and geometry of Banach spaces, as well as introducing emerging areas such as free probability and non-commutative geometry.

In gratitude for the leadership that he provided the *Journal of Functional Analysis* from its inception, and especially during these difficult times, his colleagues on the editorial board have dedicated this issue to Paul Malliavin.

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Haim Brezis
Dan Stroock
Editors for the special issue

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