UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI
TRADIȚIE ȘI EXCELENȚĂ

Facultatea de Matematică și Informatică

Str. M. Kogălniceanu nr. 1
Cluj-Napoca, RO-400084
Tel: 0264.405.327
Fax: 0264.591.906
e-mail: math@math.ubbcluj.ro
web: http://www.cs.ubbcluj.ro

Magnifice Rector,

Honorable President of the University Senate,

Dear colleagues and guests,

Speaking in a few minutes about Professor Ravi Agarwal is not an easy task. Summing up 45 years of scientific and didactic activity, more than 1000 papers, 25 monographs and books, 10.000 citations by more than 3000 authors and more than 400 co-authors and 100 talks in conferences and seminars, Professor Agarwal is one of the most active figures in scientific life. Therefore, a complete portrait being impossible to make, it remains just to sketch parts of his personality and achievements.

I would distinguish two periods of his scientific activity. The first 20 years was a time of affirmation as a single author of many papers and some memorable monographs which consecrated him as an expert in difference and differential equations.

The first book authored by Professor Agarwal, Boundary Value Problems for Higher Order Differential Equations, appeared in 1986, was very well received by Mathematical Reviews and Zentralblatt fur Mathematik and it stimulated in the next years the study of higher order differential equations.

Professor Agarwal's masterpiece is the book titled Difference Equations and Inequalities: Theory, Methods and Applications, published by Marcel Dekker in 1992. This book of about 800 pages has been considered a virtual encyclopedia of results concerning difference equations. A Second Edition, Revised and Expended at about 1000 pages appeared in 2000.

Later in 1998, he published at Kluwer the monograph Focal Boundary Value Problems for Differential and Difference Equations, based like the previous books on his own results and on a great knowledge of the literature.

Another memorable book co-authored with V. Lakshmikantham, Uniqueness and Nonuniqueness Criteria for Ordinary Differential Equations, World Scientific, 1993 made the transition from the classical to the modern theory of differential equations.

I would also mention the joint books with R.C. Gupta (1993), P.Y.H. Pang (1995), P.J.Y. Wong (1997) and D. O'Regan and P.J.Y. Wong (1999).

In the next 25 years Professor Agarwal developed a rich cooperation net with hundreds of mathematicians from various countries including Romania. Also, he has been involved in editorial activity as editor-in-chief of four journals and associated editor of over 40 international journals. He is a member of the Editorial Board of our journal Annals of the Tiberiu Popoviciu Seminar.

His collaboration with many young mathematicians from all over the world has had, as a result, the spread of self-confidence inside the mathematical community from less developed countries, contributing to the democratic enlargement of the international scientific community.

Professor Agarwal has played a leading role in many branches of mathematics such as Nonlinear Ordinary Differential Equations, Fixed Point Theory, General Inequalities, Numerical Analysis and their Applications. His seminal work has had an impact in the community of mathematics as well as in the field of applied sciences.

For all these reasons, we consider Professor Ravi P. Agarwal as an honorary member of our Faculty and today's ceremony is a recognition of his remarkable achievements in mathematics.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Professor Radu Precup, Ph.D.