Dear Friends,

I have never fought to get honours for myself; so I was really surprised to have this honour and it is for sure a great pleasure.

Any good researcher knows that so many bad paths have to be looked at before a good one can be found. Your presence here shows that some of the paths taken by my research were not so bad! Your presence here and the book given to me, compels me to go forward towards yet more new good paths.

For example:
How do we find labyrinths in Spatial Pyramids in order to discover good partial orders, how do we find a 4D- pyramidal organisation of the stars of our universe or of the concepts of our brain (by starting, for instance, from the dissimilarity of the words we use)? How do we use forest trees attached to clustering algorithms in order to find new criteria for good choices of dissimilarities, feature selections and numbers of clusters? How do we find clusterfiers in order to induce new clusters from some given clusters?
How do we do Copular Principal Component Analysis to study symbolic data where each cell of the initial data table contains distributions?; how do we extend mixture decomposition to such data and to new structures like hierarchies or pyramids etc.? I am ready to write many new "*poems*" in Data Science, thanks to your encouragements by being here.

My first thanks go to the editors of the book. I am sure that it was a long and difficult job to select, improve, and put together all these papers. Secondly my thanks go to all of the people who have contributed to the book by their papers. I am impressed to see that so many people from all around the world and from such a high level have participated in this book. For sure, I wish to thank the organizers of this day and the speakers for the nice talks we all heard throughout this D day!

Teaching and doing advanced research is a wonderful and marvellous job where my device **[Edwin: Do you mean 'device' or "approach" or "modus operandi"?]** has always been to work at the limit of the unknown and to be useful to others. Your participation gives me more power to continue in this direction. Once more, many thanks and warm friendship to all of you and specially to the such high level researchers who participated in this day by coming sometimes from far away foreign countries.