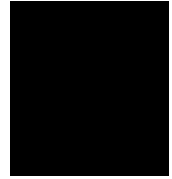


# Preface to the Second Edition

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*Life is a gamble at terrible odds—if it was a bet you wouldn't take it.*  
Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

Chance continues to rule in the early part of the twenty-first century and probability continues to be the natural language of uncertainty. In this second edition of *Chance Rules* I have added more material on waiting times, some counter-intuitive results when tossing coins or dice, two recent examples of the Prosecutor's Fallacy when dealing with conditional probabilities, extra examples of clinical trials and puzzling probabilities, and a new chapter on predicting the future. As in the first edition, I have tried to keep the mathematical details to the very minimum although a few formidable looking formulae do occasionally appear, particularly in Chapter 10. As with the first edition, it will often be worthwhile to make an effort to follow these more tricky sections, and once again, I wish you luck.

Dulwich, London, 2007

Brian S. Everitt

Chance Rules

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