

DEDICATION

We the Editors believe that one of the major reasons for *Statistics in Medicine's* growth and success is the occasional 'special issues' we have published. Mostly these have taken the form of a series of refereed papers presented at a conference such as the annual meetings of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics and the several National Institutes of Health Workshops on statistical methodology. Less frequently, however, these have taken the form of acknowledging one of our own colleagues with a *festschrift*. Such is the occasion with this issue.

We take particular delight with this issue to honour Peter Armitage in this year of his retirement. Clearly, Peter Armitage enjoys an international position of respect and admiration among his colleagues. His career embodies, almost uniquely, the stated Aims and Scope of *Statistics in Medicine*. His work in clinical trials, epidemiology, laboratory experiments and health care research, along with his pioneering developments of statistical methodology, serve without doubt, '... to enhance communication between statisticians, clinicians and medical researchers with the common purpose of advancing knowledge and understanding of quantitative aspects of medicine'. Few would dispute that Peter Armitage indeed personifies all that we the Editors intend with *Statistics in Medicine*.

Peter Armitage was born on 15 June 1924 in Huddersfield. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Cambridge and his PhD from the University of London. He commenced his position at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1947 where he was employed by the Statistical Research Unit of the Medical Research Council. There, Peter Armitage's career in medical statistics flourished. In 1961, upon the retirement of Sir Austin Bradford Hill, Peter Armitage succeeded him in the prestigious Chair of Medical Statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In 1976, Peter Armitage moved to Oxford University to become Professor of Biomathematics and, in 1988, Professor of Applied Statistics. This year, 1990, marks the occasion of his retirement.

Peter Armitage belongs to many professional societies. He is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, the Institute of Statisticians and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. He has served in a leadership role in professional societies, namely, as president of the Royal Statistical Society, Biometric Society and the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics.

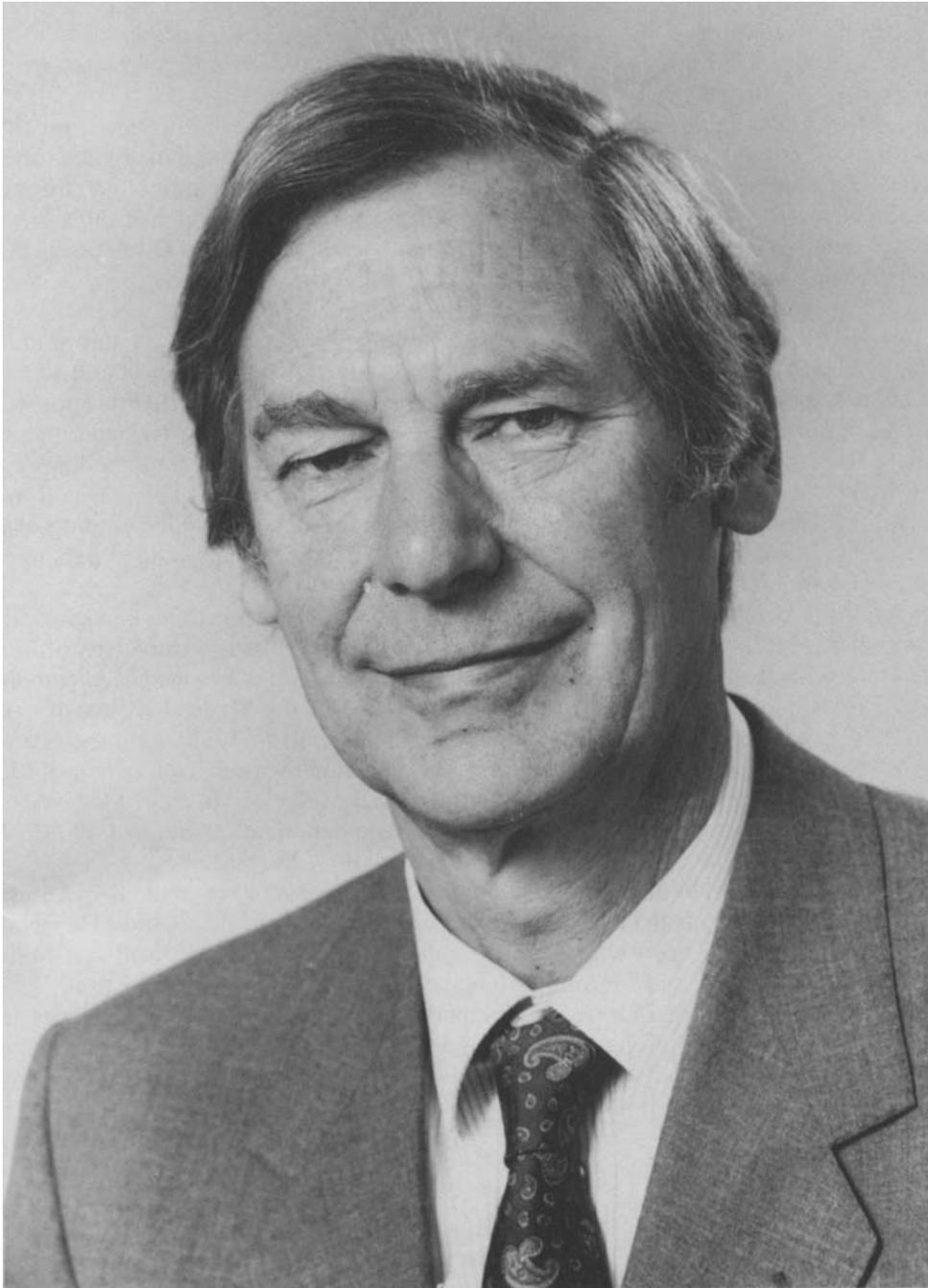
He has served as editor of *Biometrics*, as chairperson of the *Biometrika* Trustees and on the Editorial Boards of numerous statistical and health-related journals. To our delight, he has served, since the beginning of 1985 on the Editorial Board of *Statistics in Medicine*.

He has received numerous awards including Guy Medals in Bronze, Silver and Gold of the Royal Statistical Society and the J. Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine. Most importantly, Peter Armitage was named in the 1984 Queen's birthday honours with the award of CBE.

Anyone who delves in earnest into medical statistics will, almost invariably, encounter some facet of the work of Peter Armitage. His areas of interest are broad and cover nearly every aspect of statistics applied to medicine, as his Bibliography indicates (pp. 709-716). In particular, his textbook, *Statistical Methods in Medical Research*,* displays his lucid style of communication and has become a classic in our field.

* See Reference 1 on p. 593 of this issue.

PROFESSOR PETER ARMITAGE



Upon this year of his retirement, we offer this *festschrift* of work by his peers, colleagues and former students. Peter, we all thank you for your many contributions to our profession, for the exciting, new areas of research you have pioneered for us, for the leadership role you have taken in the interfaces between statistician and clinician, and between theoretical and applied statistician, and for your friendship and collegiality over the years. We wish you well!!!

KLIM MCPHERSON
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