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Smith PG, Morrow RH, Ross DA, editors. *Field Trials of Health Interventions: A Toolbox*. 3rd edition. Oxford (UK): OUP Oxford; 2015 Jun 1.

Dedication

Richard H. Morrow (1932–2013)

We dedicate this book to the memory of Dick Morrow who died after a short illness in the final stages of editing the book (Figure D.1). Dick Morrow had a profound influence on the careers and development of the very many students and colleagues he mentored, including my own. It was an enormous privilege to have worked with him in various locations over a period in excess of 40 years. We first met in 1970 when he was teaching epidemiology at Makerere University in Uganda, and I was a newly arrived lecturer. It was my great good fortune to be allocated an office next to Dick at the top of Mulago Hill. He guided me through writing my first grant application to the Wellcome Trust, for a trial to assess whether BCG vaccination protected against Buruli ulcer and, with his ever present optimism, persuaded me to start the study with my own funds, anticipating a positive outcome from the Trust! The short time we overlapped in Kampala cemented what was to become a lifelong friendship.

We both worked in Uganda on the ambitious cohort study designed to evaluate whether prior infection with the Epstein–Barr virus was the trigger for causing the African childhood cancer Burkitt’s lymphoma. This study involved many players and was executed by the World Health Organization (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer, but what has been lost in the history of that research is the key role that Dick had in the genesis of the study and the enormous intellectual contribution he made to its design. However, one of the most endearing features of the man was his indifference to personal credit, believing that what was important was that the right things were done and what was key were the scientific insights, rather than who had them.

In the 1970s, Dick returned to Ghana to work in the newly formed Health Planning Unit, and, in extended visits, I worked with him and Ghanaian colleagues to pursue his idea of a new way of measuring the burden of different diseases in Ghana through the concept of ‘years of healthy life lost’, a combination measure of years lost due to premature mortality and time spent in different states of morbidity, each of which was accorded a weight according to severity. We published the method and data for Ghana, and Dick’s insights were later taken up by others in developing the Global Burden of Disease exercise. The origination of this methodology from Dick has never been properly acknowledged, but this never really bothered Dick whose pleasure came from seeing the idea being taken forward and built upon.

In 1979, Dick became the epidemiologist for the then recently formed Tropical Disease Research (TDR) Programme at WHO in Geneva, first working under the directorship of Ade Lucas and then Tore Godal. Dick’s emphasis of the fundamental importance of epidemiology and rigorous design in field research on tropical diseases did much to lay the foundations of the TDR programme. The joy that Dick always had in helping and seeing others develop and succeed suited him ideally for work in a programme in which capacity development was a major part. I had the pleasure of accompanying him on a large number of field trips, promoting epidemiology and epidemiological methods in many low- and middle-income countries. In 1987, I was able to work with Dick for a year in Geneva with TDR, and it was then we devised the idea of producing a book on the aspects of field research methods that are rarely detailed in published papers. This was very much a labour of love on both our parts, and we were able to persuade numerous colleagues, with a wealth of field research experience, to contribute to the venture. The first edition of what came to be known as ‘*The toolbox*’ was published in 1990, and we revised it in 1996. Sections of the book have become dated, and, a couple of years ago, we decided that a complete revision was required, taking on David Ross as a co-editor. We worked on this on a regular basis, again enlisting the help of numerous colleagues, during meetings and conference calls, every few weeks, between the three of us. We were revising the manuscript right up to the time of Dick’s untimely short final illness, and he was able to complete his review and revisions of all of the chapters.

Dick’s passing has left an enormous hole in my life and in that of all those who enjoyed his friendship and mentorship in a life devoted to improving the health and well-being of those in the most deprived communities. His legendary rock-like calmness, intellectual curiosity, and warm kindness were an inspiration. Appreciation of Dick’s many qualities was shared by many friends and colleagues, including contributors to *The toolbox*—his intellect, integrity, sense of humour, creativity, willingness to give others credit for what he started, and making himself available and giving of himself to his colleagues and students, often to the detriment of his own work. He believed in the goodness

of mankind, always saw the best in people, never spoke badly of anyone, and truly treated all equally, with respect and kindness, whether this was a first-year student or the Director General of WHO.

Peter G. Smith

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Figures



Figure D.1

Richard H. Morrow (1932–2013).

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