

Rupert G. Miller, Jr., 1933-1986: A Tribute*

Rupert Griel Miller, Jr., Professor of Statistics and of Family, Community, and Preventive Medicine at Stanford University, died on March 15, 1986 after a long bout with cancer. His illness began several years prior, but with much determination he endured aggressive therapy until he began failing in January 1986. This courageous behavior permitted him to teach and work as late as fall quarter 1986.

As a suitable memorial, his friends conceived the idea of an annual lecture given by an outstanding statistician who, like Rupert, worked in both theory and applications. Within months friends, former students and associates from all over the world had contributed enough to permanently endow The Rupert Miller, Jr., Annual Lecture. The first two Lecturers were good friends of Rupert's: Sir David Cox's lecture on October 1, 1987 was entitled "The Relation between Models and Statistical Analysis," and Professor John Tukey's lecture on April 26, 1989 was entitled "The Philosophy of Multiple Comparisons." The third lecture, "Quantitative Meanings of Qualitative Probabilistic Expressions: How Probable is 'Likely'?" was delivered by Professor Federick Mosteller on April 26, 1990.

Rupert was born on January 31, 1933 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was the only child of Rupert G. and Anna Mary Hollinger Miller. In Rupert's childhood the family lived both in Marietta and in Lancaster, where he attended the local elementary school. He attained the rank of Eagle Scout, and his interest in nature continued throughout his life. He attended The Hill School in Pennsylvania from 1947-50. After graduation from The Hill School, Rupert entered Princeton University in 1950, a choice based on the reputation of its wrestling team. He was a varsity wrestler at Princeton and was graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1954 with a degree in mathematics. Rupert entered the graduate program in the Department of Statistics at Stanford in 1954 and received his Ph.D. degree in June 1958.

Immediately after his doctoral degree he taught at The University of California, Berkeley, and then joined the faculty at Stanford in September 1959 as

an Assistant Professor. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1962 and was made Full Professor in 1967. Rupert was an Associate Editor of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* from 1967-1972 and Editor of the *Annals of Statistics* from 1977-1979. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1968, and a Fellow of American Statistical Association in 1969.

His broadly respected scholarship and contributions to statistical theory were complemented by a keen interest in the application of statistical procedures to biomedical research. He helped hundreds of medical students, staff and faculty who came to him for advice on statistical aspects to their research. He refused to give superficial advice, immersing himself in each problem, familiarizing himself with the experimental procedures, studying data in detail and giving deep and thoughtful advice. The seminars he gave on his consulting were an inspiration to faculty and to hundreds of students aiming at careers in applied statistics. His approach led to many close and productive joint collaborations with medical investigators over the years. A notable instance is his collaboration with the late Professor Judy Pool, in her groundbreaking work on clotting mechanisms.

As numerous and broadranging as his professional activities were—editing, writing books, new contributions to theory, teaching, thesis guidance, collaboration and consultation with medical investigators—Rupert always found time to talk with any student or colleague who sought advice or help, personal or professional. And the attention he gave was always thoughtful, deliberate and without regard for his own time.

He was the principal investigator of a National Institutes of Health grant, funded first in 1974 and renewed every three years thereafter, dedicated to bringing new statistical procedures into use in biomedical applications. Under his ever-watchful scholarly and practical direction, this grant resulted in more than 100 technical reports circulated around the world, most of them subsequently published in the medical or statistical literature. One volume of case studies was published under hard cover and is familiar to statisticians and biostatisticians for its illustrative data sets and approaches to statistical analysis.

Rupert was a quiet person who made a deep impression on those who knew him well. The im-

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