

**(7) Organised under the direction of Professor A Bradford Hill (1960)**

***Controlled Clinical Trials***

**Papers delivered at the Conference convened by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, established under the joint auspices of UNESCO and WHO  
Oxford: Blackwell**

and,

**D Schwartz, R Flamant, J Lellouch, C Rouquette (1960)**

**Les essais thérapeutiques cliniques: méthode scientifique d'appréciation d'un traitement  
Paris: Masson and Co**

***Preamble***

For further details see Bird SM (2014). *The 1959 meeting in Vienna on controlled clinical trials – a methodological landmark* ([www.jameslindlibrary.org/articles/the-1959-meeting-in-Vienna-on-controlled-clinical-trials-a-methodological-landmark](http://www.jameslindlibrary.org/articles/the-1959-meeting-in-Vienna-on-controlled-clinical-trials-a-methodological-landmark)), and, Schwartz D, Flamant R, Lellouch J, Rouquette C (1960), *Les essais thérapeutiques cliniques (Controlled clinical trials)*, Paris: Masson. This appears to be the first text on clinical trials published in a language other than English.

***Aims***

*The conference on Controlled Clinical Trials was called by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences and was held in Vienna from 23 to 27 March 1959, under the chairmanship of Professor A Bradford Hill. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the principles, organization, and scope of these trials, which must be carried out if new methods or preparations used for the treatment of disease are to be accurately assessed clinically. The conference was in itself an experiment. The meeting was a closed one, and only one hundred participants were invited. One national group, the British, was charged with the task of presenting each topic to be studied. In this way, all papers were co-ordinated in London by Professor Bradford Hill so that overlap was avoided and ample time allowed for discussion. Originally we did not intend to publish the proceedings in English as the literature on the subject is already extensive. It was felt, however, that a report of the conference in French would be desirable, and it is now in preparation. But the number of requests for the working documents from many countries was so great that we decided to publish in full the introductory papers in mimeographed form. This limited edition was soon exhausted, and in view of the continued demand we have decided to bring out a printed version (Foreword, page vii).*

***Contents (123 pages)***

Foreword

Part One: Introduction

Aims and ethics (A Bradford Hill)

The ethics of controlled clinical trials (LJ Witts)

The construction of comparable groups (P Armitage)

Criteria for diagnosis and assessment in clinical trials (CM Fletcher)

Part two: Acute infections

A trial of antihistamine drugs in the treatment of the common cold (J Knowlden)

Sore throat: a controlled therapeutic trial in young adults (R Cruikshank)

Part three: Pulmonary tuberculosis

The statistical requirements and methods (I Sutherland)

Clinical aspects of controlled trials in pulmonary tuberculosis (JG Scadding)

Controlled trials in tuberculosis (J Crofton)

Part four: Rheumatoid arthritis

Definition and measurement (JH Kellgren)

Treatment and illustrative answers (EGL Bywaters)

Part five: Other designs for controlled clinical trials

The patient as his own control (DD Reid)

The concurrent assessment of several treatments (R Doll)

The sequential approach (P Armitage)

Part six: Coronary thrombosis

A trial of long-term anticoagulation administration after myocardial infarction  
(DD Reid)

Clinical problems and results (Sir George W Pickering)

Part seven: Cancer

Clinical trials in malignant disease (R Paterson)

An illustrative trial in malignant disease (HJB Atkins)

Part eight: Problems of organization

The organisation of controlled clinical trials (P D'Arcy Hart)

The design of records and follow-up (I Sutherland)

The analysis and presentation of results (J Knowelden)

Part nine: Conclusions

Conclusion: the physician (Sir George W Pickering)

Conclusion: the statistician (A Bradford Hill)

***Authors***

The chairman is A Bradford Hill (Professor of Medical Statistics, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Honorary Director of the Statistical Research Unit of the Medical Research Council). The authors P Armitage (Member of the Statistical Research Unit of the Medical Research Council); HJB Atkins (Director, Department of Surgery, Guy's Hospital, London); EGL Bywaters (Professor of Rheumatology, University of London); J Crofton (Professor of Tuberculosis, University of Edinburgh); R Cruickshank (Professor of Bacteriology, University of Edinburgh); P D'Arcy Hart (Director of the Tuberculosis Research Unit of the Medical Research Council); R Doll (Deputy Director of the Statistical Research Unit of the Medical Research Council); CM Fletcher (Senior Lecturer in Medicine, Postgraduate Medical School of London); JH Kellgren (Professor of Rheumatology, University of Manchester); J Knowelden (Senior Lecturer in Medical Statistics, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine); R Paterson (Director of Radiotherapy, Christie Hospital, Manchester); Sir George Pickering (Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford); DD Reid (Professor of Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine); JG Scadding (Director of Studies, Institute of Diseases of the Chest, and Physician, The Brompton Hospital, London); Ian Sutherland (Member of the Statistical Research Unit of the Medical Research Council); and, LJ Witts (Nuffield Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford).