

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Julien I. E. Hoffman** was born and educated in Salisbury (now named Harare) in Southern Rhodesia (now named Zimbabwe) in 1925. He entered the Faculty of Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, and obtained a BSc Hons in Anatomy and Physiology in 1945 and a medical degree (MB, BCh) in 1949. After working for almost 3 years at the Central Middlesex Hospital in London, England, as a house officer and registrar in Medicine, he returned to Johannesburg as a senior registrar in the Department of Medicine for 18 months, and then returned to England to work for the Medical Research Council. In 1957, he went to Boston Children's Hospital to study congenital heart disease, and this was followed by 15 months as a Fellow in the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of California in San Francisco.

In 1962, he joined the faculty at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, and in 1966, returned to the University of California in San Francisco as Associate Professor of Pediatrics and member of the Cardiovascular Research Institute. He was a clinical pediatric cardiologist, taking care of children with heart disease, but spent about 50% time running a research laboratory to study the pathophysiology of the coronary circulation.

His interest in statistics began while taking his Science degree. After going to England, he took short courses in Biostatistics from Bradford Hill and his colleagues. On returning to South Africa, as the only department member to know anything about statistics, he was assigned to perform statistical analyses for other members of the department. This was a period of learning by trial and error, helped by Dr J Kerrich, head of the University's Division of Statistics.

When he went to San Francisco as a Fellow, he was assigned to give statistics lectures to the Fellows and Residents, and when returned to San Francisco in 1966, he gave an officially sanctioned course in Biostatistics to research Fellows and Residents. These lectures were given annually for over 30 years. He was a member of the Biostatistics group, a semiformal group that supervised statistical teaching and consultation. He also was a statistical consultant to the journal *Circulation Research*, and was often assigned manuscripts by other journals, mostly from the *American Heart Association*, to check on the statistical procedures used.