

## Obituary

### A tribute to Andrew Herxheimer (1925-2016)

We were saddened to learn of the death of Andrew Herxheimer, a longstanding member of EASE and a respected colleague, on 21st February. We asked some of his editorial colleagues to share their thoughts on this exceptional man.

“In the early 1990s, Andrew was a member of an advisory group commissioned by Michael Peckham, director of the NHS Research and Development Programme, to advise him about Health Technology Assessment. I was chair of the group and Andrew was one of the members, chosen particularly because of his editorship of the *Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin*. He was a real asset, particularly when it came to drafting and writing the report. I asked Andrew if he would join the small team establishing the Cochrane Centre at the end of 1992. I’m very glad that he agreed. He was a superb editor of drafts of articles and other documents I had to prepare. Above all, he taught me how to write more simply, with shorter words and shorter sentences, cutting out jargon. And all this mentoring in my own language from someone whose first language wasn’t English!”

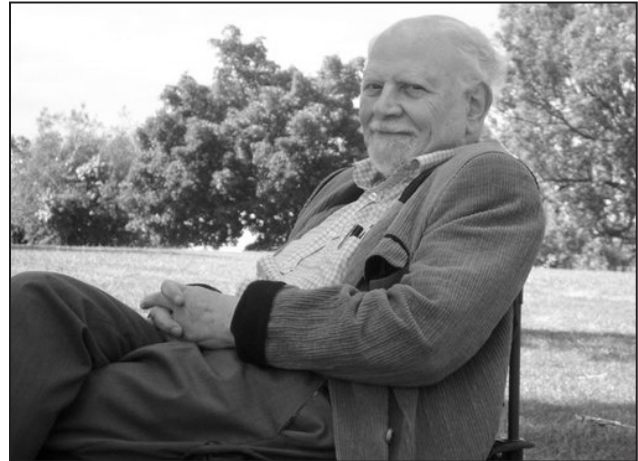
**Iain Chalmers**

“Andrew Herxheimer was a founder member of the Cochrane Collaboration and of Cochrane’s Adverse Effects Methods Group, set up with the aiming of improving how adverse effects of interventions were evaluated and reported in systematic reviews. This reflected his drive to recognise the importance of patients in all processes relating to information about healthcare interventions. Andrew worked as editor, peer reviewer, and author on many Cochrane Reviews across a range of topics, and he was a vocal advocate of post-publication comments and plain language summaries. In pursuing all these matters, Andrew’s approach was one of direct but cheerful persistence, zooming in on what really mattered most, and leaving collaborators feeling slightly guilty for not having done more, but also encouraged and often amused.”

**John Hilton**

“Andrew was a man of high principles and deep learning but his approach always involved wit and humour. He had a mischievous love of word play and any conversation with him would include sparkling examples of this even if the topic was a serious one such as drug company behaviour or the availability of information on treatments. Over a long and active life his legacy includes the development of drug and therapeutic bulletins and the establishment of the database of patient experiences. He was a pleasure to work with.”

**Liz Wager**



“Andrew was always good company at EASE meetings – and always had a slightly wicked and/or amused grin/twinkle in his eyes. It was great to see him at those meetings.”

**Maeve O’Connor**

“My long friendship with Andrew began in the late 1980s when we met at EASE meetings. Andrew loved speaking French, he spoke well and with a nice accent. In the 1990s Andrew was an active advisor to the young editorial board of *La Revue Prescrire* - the independent French monthly journal that since 1981 has critically evaluated pharmaceutical developments. Because of this Andrew visited Paris regularly and he would call me to meet for drinks, or occasionally a meal, usually at a Paris terrace. I would chose the place – Andrew loved visiting Paris and one of his interests was in photographing cafés/restaurants. There we would have long discussions about pharmacology and journals. Over the last 10 years we continued to exchange ideas by email on a regular basis and this became much easier with the development of social networks. I miss Andrew.”

**Hervé Maisonneuve**

To learn more about Andrew’s life and achievements please see his obituary in *The Guardian*, March 25 2016. Read it at [http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/mar/25/andrew-herxheimer-obituary?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/mar/25/andrew-herxheimer-obituary?CMP=share_btn_fb)