
Editorial

We were delighted to be asked to produce a special number of *Genetical Research* in honour of Mary Lyon, containing papers by her past and present colleagues and associates. Three of her colleagues, Bruce Cattanaach, Jo Peters and Tony Searle, undertook both to ask for contributions and to have them refereed and revised where necessary, which relieved the editors of much of their normal work. In return, we promised to suppress our old-fashioned prejudices about grammatical eccentricities and the use of the words 'envision' and 'hopefully'.

We need no excuse for producing this special number, since Mary Lyon has had a very long association with this journal both as contributor (her first paper to *Genetical Research* appeared in 1960, the year of its birth) and as a valued member of its Editorial Board since 1968 – her important part in the development of mouse genetics, I am sure, had a hitch-hiking effect on the prominent place which *Genetical Research* now has for displaying new work in this area (I borrow this term in its special sense first used in 'The hitch-hiking effect of a favourable gene' by J. Maynard Smith and J. Haigh in *Genetical Research* (1974), 23, 23–38).

In venturing on a special number in a field where rapid publication is so important, we felt possibly overconfident in being able to fill the 80 pages of a normal number of the journal. To our astonishment we have been presented with 23 papers from 67 authors, taking up to 186 pages of print. To accommodate all this wealth, we have had to combine the October and December 1990 issues of the Journal into a double number, presenting the subscriber with an extra 30 pages for volume 56. This special number will be available on separate order (see page 282).

ERIC REEVE



Mary Lyon