

Preface

This issue of the *Journal of Statistical Physics* is dedicated to Oliver Penrose on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday. Oliver has made seminal contributions to many areas of statistical mechanics. These include superfluidity in liquid helium, phase transitions in systems with long range interactions, the time evolution of quenched fluids and alloys, the nature of metastability, and the foundations of irreversibility. His work is characterized by its clarity of conception and exposition. He is a master of the judicious use of modeling and mathematical rigor to elucidate physical phenomena.

In addition to his scientific achievements, Oliver is an accomplished cellist with several musical compositions to his credit. He is also socially conscientious and actively engaged in intellectual, political, philosophical, and cultural issues: a good example of what a humanist–scientist–citizen should be.

Oliver has also been my very good friend for a very long time. It therefore gives me great pleasure to wish him, on behalf of myself, the contributors to this issue, and his many other friends, a long active life of unhampered and joyous scientific, musical, and personal pursuits. Now that he is officially retired and free, he can focus on the important things we need to know. We have learned much from him in the past and hope to learn much more in the time ahead.

With great affection,

Joel L. Lebowitz