

Preface

During 1983 the University of Edinburgh celebrated the 400th anniversary of its founding. We were therefore particularly pleased that the honour of acting as host for the 15th Statistical Physics Conference could also form part of the quatercentenary celebrations. Over 400 participants attended the meeting and almost 400 contributed papers were presented. This special issue of the *Journal of Statistical Physics* contains the invited papers presented at the conference.

At the opening session of the conference, the fourth Boltzmann medal, for outstanding contributions in statistical physics, was presented to Michael E. Fisher, Cornell University. Fisher's responding address and the invited papers appear in chronological order. The names and affiliations of participants are given in an appendix.

It is a pleasure to take this opportunity of thanking members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee and the other members of the Organizing Committee for their help in preparing the scientific program. The contribution of the sponsors to the success of the conference is also gratefully acknowledged.

D. J. Wallace
Scientific Program Chairman