Appreciation

An Appreciation of Dr. Donald Roger Mattison (Apr 28, 1944 — Mar 22, 2026), Former Editor of Global Clinical and Translational Research

Claude Hughes

November 19, 2026

Dr. Donald Roger Mattison, an editor of *Global Clinical and Translational Research* since its early years, died on March 22, 2026. We lost a friend and colleague who generously shared his wisdom and expertise with our journal.

Don was a physician, scientist, and leader in public health, basic research, and translational research in North America. A few years ago, when we launched *Global Clinical and Translational Research* as a small academic journal with broad scope, we asked Don if he would serve as an editor. He said yes right away. He was drawn to the academic rigor we proposed as the core of our editorial approach, rather than seeking profits through a high throughput of articles. His rigor was matched by his generosity toward colleagues, and he became a key contributor to the journal. Those who knew him would expect nothing less.

What we remember most is what a multifaceted and joyous person he was, and how he affected the rest of us. I once told Don, "I consider you to be an older brother and mentor of mine in reproductive health and toxicology research." Don was speechless for several seconds.

Then he said he deeply appreciated the remark, but what mattered most to him was that we were indeed brothers in these worthy scientific and medical efforts.

Don's full publication record is available on Google Scholar, so here is only a brief overview of his major roles and accomplishments.

Don earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Chemistry from Augsburg University, followed by a Master of Science in Physical Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and a Doctor of Medicine from Columbia University. He completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

Don began his career at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), then served as a professor and clinician at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, with a joint appointment at the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR), and later as Dean of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

He went on to serve as Medical Director of the March of Dimes and Senior Advisor to the Director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). In more than 20 years in the U.S. Public Health Service, he responded to Hurricane Katrina and served aboard the hospital ship USNS Mercy, retiring as a Captain.

In 2012, Don joined Risk Sciences International (RSI) in Ottawa, Ontario, as Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, where he contributed to 47 scientific publications and mentored many colleagues. He was also Associate Director of the McLaughlin Centre for Population Health Risk Assessment, Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa, and, from 2021 to 2023, Distinguished Professor of Health Sciences at the University of South Carolina.

His research spanned reproductive toxicology, pharmacology, adverse drug events, and sex and gender differences in health. Over the course of his career, Don published more than 400 scientific papers and both authored and edited several books.

He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a member of the National Academy of Medicine, and an Elected Foreign Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, London.

Even in retirement, Don continued to care for others, volunteering as a physician in free clinics in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and Hilton Head, South Carolina. He was known for asking himself at the end of each day, "What have I done for others?"

Don will be remembered for his kindness, quick wit, and lifelong devotion to medicine and science. He was a voracious reader who found joy in the outdoors.

Thank you, our brother in biomedical science, Professor Mattison.

Claude Hughes, MD, PhD

Editor-in-Chief, *Global Clinical and Translational Research*

Medical Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Duke University Medical Center
and
Senior Director, Medical Head of Reproductive Health CoE
IQVIA
Email:clhughes@duke.edu or claude.hughes@iqvia.com