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His main interest is in preventive cardiology. He was the Co-ordinator and Principal Investigator of The Norwegian Timolol Trial and of the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) that he initiated. He also initiated and chaired the Steering Committee of the IDEAL study (190 centers) to determine whether lowering of cholesterol beyond what was achieved in the 4S is beneficial for CHD patients and the SEAS study (173 centers) to investigate the effect of cholesterol lowering in patients with aortic valve stenosis . He is presently also member of the executive or steering committee or in the safety monitoring committee of several other large-scale clinical trials in the field of preventive cardiovascular medicine. He is member of the International Editorial Board of the European Heart Journal.