

◆ *Presentation to Douglas G Altman*

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Chair, CSE Awards and Honors
Committee

The highest honor CSE bestows is the Award for Meritorious Achievement. This year's recipient is Douglas G Altman. Doug is the professor of statistics in medicine at the University of Oxford. There he directs the Centre for Statistics in Medicine, which he founded, and the Cancer Research UK Medical Statistics Group. I daresay that Doug may have done more to improve the quality of the scientific and medical literature than virtually anyone else I know, including all of us full-time editors! He was the driving force behind the development of CONSORT, the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials, now in wide use for the reporting of clinical trials. He is a coconvenor of the Statistical Methods Group of the Cochrane Collaboration. His many publications include the important texts *Practical Statistics for Medical Research*, *Statistics with Confidence*, *Systematic Reviews*, and *Systematic Reviews in Health Care*. His troubling questions about editorial misconduct led *The Lancet* and some other journals to appoint an ombudsman to deal with issues raised by authors. He has raised other difficult and vital questions about the use and



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Faith McLellan introducing Douglas G Altman

abuse of statistics in medicine and the selective reporting of research results. The world of medical journals owes him a great deal.

There is much more to be said about Doug, but I particularly enjoyed a review of one of his books I found on Amazon.com,

in which he is called “a legendary expert” who has written a “classic”. For the accomplishments I have highlighted and many more, CSE presents Doug Altman with the Award for Meritorious Achievement. 🎉