

## History of the William Guy Lecture

As at 1 August 2017, individuals appointed are as follows:

Year	Name	Institution (at time of appointment)	Lecture title
2017-2018	Dr Jeff Ralph	Office for National Statistics (ONS)	Society and Teenagers: How statistics reveal the changes in young people's lives through the last century
2016-2017	Professor Christl Donnelly	Imperial College London	Statistics and Epidemiology – How numbers help control diseases
2015-2016	Dr Phil Ansell	Newcastle University	Using data to predict the outcome of sporting events: who really is the best?
2013-2014	Dr Jennifer Rogers GradStat	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	Making life saving decisions in clinical trials: how much evidence do we need?
2012-2013	Stella Dudzic	MEI	Measuring inequality
2011-2012	Paul Baxter CStat	University of Leeds	Are large databases good for your health?
2010-2011	Professor David Spiegelhalter	University of Cambridge	Living with risk and uncertainty
2009-2010	Keith Parramore	University of Brighton	The bottle factory - order from chaos
2008-2009	Phil Woodward CStat	Pfizer	Experimental Design: How statisticians influence research & development
2007-2008	Neil Sheldon CStat	Manchester Grammar School	Statistics and Stories: insight not numbers
2006-2007	Dr Susan Starkings	London South Bank University	Can you see the wood for the trees?: surveys, sampling, estimation and approximation
2005-2006	Dr John Haigh	University of Sussex	Taking Chances
2004-2005	Frank Duckworth		Lies and Statistics
2003-2004	Peter Holmes CStat	RSS Centre for Statistical Education	Statistics in Society
2000	Adrian Bowman	University of Glasgow	A world of difference: a rough guide to why statisticians count



Year	Name	Institution (at time of appointment)	Lecture title
1999	Adrian Smith CStat	Queen Mary, University of London	Statistics and statisticians: the good guy's answer to lying figures and figuring liars

In addition to the current William Guy Lecturer, several previous recipients are willing to consider requests to deliver their lecture by mutual arrangement – see our website for an [up to date list of lecturers and abstracts](#).

### History of the lecture

William Augustus Guy (1810-1885) was one of the early medical statisticians. He was extremely eminent in the field. He was closely associated with the Society for many years, including being president 1873-1875. His portrait hangs in our office. The Guy medals, awarded to distinguished statisticians for important work, testify to his memory. A more recent innovation is the William Guy Lecture.

One of our former honorary secretaries, Sidney Rosenbaum, discovered that Guy was a pupil at his old school, Christ's Hospital, now located near Horsham. Sidney arranged discussions that led to the setting up of a Guy Lecture. The first Guy Lecture was given by Adrian Smith on 29 April 1999 – 'Statistics and statisticians: the good guy's answer to lying figures and figuring liars'. Adrian Bowman gave the second lecture on 19 May 2000 – 'A world of difference: a rough guide to why statisticians count'.

Adrian Bowman's lecture was given to many other sixth form audiences. This encouraged us to widen the scope of the Guy Lecture to be available to any school or college. We tended to refer to the lecture as the RSS Schools Lecture with the title Guy Lecturer retained for each year's lecturer.

In 2016, following a review of the programme by our Education Committee, the name was revised to the William Guy Lecturer with the lecture known as the William Guy Lecture.

