

PRESS RELEASE

International Prize in Statistics Awarded to Sir David Cox

EMBARGOED until October 20, 2016, at 2.00am BST

Prominent British statistician and former president of the Royal Statistical Society, Sir David Cox has been named the inaugural recipient of the International Prize in Statistics, to coincide with European Statistics Day on the 20th of October 2016. Like the acclaimed Fields Medal, Abel Prize, Turing Award and Nobel Prizes, the International Prize in Statistics is considered the highest honour in its field.

With a 50-year career, Sir David Cox is a giant in the field of statistics. The International Prize in Statistics Foundation is recognizing him specifically for his 1972 paper in which he developed the proportional hazards model that today bears his name. From disease risk assessment and treatment evaluation to product liability to school dropout, re-incarceration, and AIDS surveillance systems, the Cox Model has been applied essentially in all fields of science, as well as in engineering. The Model has led to life-changing breakthroughs with far-reaching societal impacts, some of which include:

- Demonstrating that a major reduction in smoking-related cardiac deaths could be seen within just one year of smoking cessation, not 10 or more years as previously thought
- Showing the mortality effects of particulate air pollution, a finding that has changed both industrial practices and air quality regulations worldwide
- Identifying risk factors of coronary artery disease and analysing treatments for lung cancer, cystic fibrosis, obesity, sleep apnea and septic shock.

His mark on research is so great that his 1972 paper is one of the three most cited papers in statistics and is ranked 16th in *Nature's* list of the top 100 most cited papers of all time for all fields.

Professor Peter Diggle, President of the Royal Statistical Society, said:

“This prize is a thoroughly well-deserved recognition of Sir David Cox’s seminal 1972 paper. I know that all my colleagues in the Royal Statistical Society will also share my pleasure that the inaugural award has gone to someone who has always been exceptionally generous in giving time to junior colleagues.”

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Note to Editors:

Sir David Cox, received the Copley Medal in 2010, the Royal Society's highest award that has also been bestowed upon such other world-renowned scientists as Peter Higgs, Stephen Hawking, Albert Einstein, Francis Crick, and Ronald Fisher. Knighted in 1985, Cox is a fellow of the Royal Society, an honorary fellow of the British Academy and a foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Digital footage of Susan Ellenberg, chair of the International Prize in Statistics Foundation, announcing the recipient will be distributed on October 20. Ellenberg and Hetan Shah, Executive Director of the Royal Statistical Society, will be available for interviews on the day.

About the International Prize in Statistics:

The International Prize in Statistics recognizes a major achievement of an individual or team in the field of statistics and promotes understanding of the growing importance and diverse ways statistics, data analysis, probability and the understanding of uncertainty advance society, science, technology and human welfare. With a monetary award of \$75,000 USD, it is given every other year by the International Prize in Statistics Foundation, which is comprised of representatives from the American Statistical Association, International Biometric Society, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, International Statistical Institute and Royal Statistical Society. Recipients are chosen from a selection committee comprised of world-renowned academicians and researchers and officially presented with the award at the World Statistics Congress.

Contact:

For more information and to request high resolution images, please contact Magdalen Wiley, RSS Press & Policy Officer, on 020 7614 3920 or at m.wiley@rss.org.uk.

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) founded in 1834 is one of the world's most distinguished and renowned statistical societies. It is a learned society for statistics, a professional body for statisticians and a charity which promotes statistics, data and evidence for the public good. Today the Society has nearly 8000 members around the world. www.rss.org.uk