

GEORGE C. CHALLIS LECTURESHIP

Title: *The Misunderstood Placebo*

Abstract: The Edinburgh revision of Declaration of Helsinki states that "The benefits, risks, burdens and effectiveness of a new method should be tested against those of the best current prophylactic, diagnostic, and therapeutic methods. This does not exclude the use of placebo, or no treatment, in studies where no proven prophylactic, diagnostic or therapeutic method exists." This is exactly wrong. Where a disease is serious it is usually only placebo-controlled trials that are ethical. The drafting of the document betrays that its authors do not understand what they are talking about but in this they share in a widespread confusion.

Speaker: *STEPHEN SENN*
University College London

Day: Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Time: 4:00 pm

Place: Room HSC C1-11