

Report of the Meeting of the Oral Surgery Club of Great Britain

Thursday 10th November – Friday 11th November 2011

The meeting was held in the congenial atmosphere of the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Cambridge in the centre of Cambridge

Most members arrived in the afternoon of Thursday the 10th November and following the Annual General Meeting at 17.45 the Annual Dinner was held at the nearby Queens College. The reception was held in the Old Kitchens and dinner followed in the magnificent Old Hall. Grace was beautifully sung by the male choir, who entertained members with choral and popular works at various stages in the meal. The very acceptable meal was served with a mixture of old and new world wines but was of course rounded off by port!

The following morning in the Granita Suite the Scientific programme began

David Menon (Professor of Anaesthesia) :gave a talk titled “Awake or Asleep”, namely the permanent vegetative state He began by pointing out some of the anatomy of this condition; predominantly white matter lesions, with electrical activity, blood flow and PET scanning all useful in the diagnosis of this condition. He also discussed the minimally conscious state marked by the presence of non-reflexive activity. There was particular emphasis on facial recognition which apparently resides in the fusiform nucleus which was an important part of this. One such patient had recovered from this to author two peer reviewed articles in medical journals. Many members felt that this was a feat, out of reach of many of their supposedly able brained junior staff!

Mr Julian Fraser (Associate Specialist in OMFS) :gave a very interesting clear talk on Bee Keeping. He talked about the different types of bees (workers, drones and queens) and their intricate visual and olfactory signalling techniques. Much of the talk was about the demise of bee populations world wide and he elegantly explained the cause as the mite from South East Asia, first detected in the UK in Devon in 1992. This parasite was very difficult to control as resistance was rife. Bees are used very intensively on a mobile basis in the USA. Clearly despite the attraction for the city dweller to keep bees, bee husbandry is not a hobby that can be undertaken lightly. A very Informative talk.

Peter Ramsay -Baggs (President Elect) gave a quick but excellent presentation on the 2012 UK meeting to be held in Belfast .

This was followed by 1 minutes silence and then coffee

John Wallwork (Professor of Cardiac Surgery): talk was titled “ Mending Broken Hearts”. This was essentially a resume of the state of cardiac transplant in the UK. Essentially too few centres are doing to little surgery and there seemed to be an urgent need for some rationalisation. Post Transplant Survival in the UK was apparently 50% at 12-13 years, the main problem despite new drugs being chronic rejection. There is of course a shortage of donors and he briefly discussed the uses of mechanical pumps and xenografts.

David Neal (Professor of Surgical Oncology) : gave a talk titled Where are we now in Prostatic Cancer. As the audience was exclusively ageing males this was obviously of great interest. This helped to demystify a complex subject. He explained the mechanisms of prostate cancer via androgen receptors and how this is used in chemical castration. Screening was an inevitable subject and whilst only 8% of UK men are screened with PSA 70% of USA males are screened. Overall he probably came down in favour of screening . However, in one study 1400 males had to be screened to treat 50 patients and only one life saved. The use of biomarkers and single nucleotide polymorphisms to aid screening was discussed to address the shortcomings of screening based on PSA. He described the current state of prostate cancer surgery involving the laparoscopic use of robotics.

After an excellent lunch appropriately **John Hunter (Professor of Gastroenterology):**gave an update on various GI conditions. Specifically he described how irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) caused an increase in rectal prostaglandins

when many patients were challenged with a particular diet. He then showed how diet could be manipulated to control IBS and more impressively even Crohn's Disease (85% control with elemental diets). However, most impressive was the information that colorectal cancer could be detected accurately with urinary metabolite assay and even more impressive and topical; pancreatic cancer with 93% sensitivity and 85% specificity.

Mr Tariq Ahmed (Consultant Plastic Surgeon) gave an overview of ear reconstruction including the options; conservative, splinting, osseointegrated implant prosthesis, allografts and of course autografts. He described how these are used to treat the various conditions including cryptotia, trauma and lop ear as well as others. He showed some very nice results

After tea **David Moffat (Professor of Otolaryngology)** gave a guided tour of skull base surgery. Actually this was a 4 dimensional rather than 3 dimensional tour and included an almost music hall film of the great Harvey Cushing operating to rapid piano music. Skull base surgery has certainly progressed over the last 120 years since the first acoustic neuroma was excised in a subsequently living patient, and the talk was enhanced by the numerous visual aids and endoscopic film clips.

In the evening after a coach ride members were treated to a fantastic evening in the historical surroundings of the Jockey Club at Newmarket. The food was perfect but it was the history of this building adorned with equestrian oil paintings, including those by Stubbs that made it so special. In fact there seems to be a trend whereby the informal dinner though informal is being held at a special venue! Judging by the presentation given by our next president Peter Ramsay- Baggs, the venue for the next UK meeting will not disappoint in this and all other aspects!