

The Minutes of the Derby Medical Society

Held on the 2nd October 2012 in the Medical School in Derby

Apologies were received from

Paul Cartwright

Dr Eisenberg

Roger Chapman

Dr Fryatt

Mark Sibbering

Dr Dodds

Howard Jenkins

Mr Munson

Jan and Michael Millar – Craig

The minutes of the last meeting on the 20th March 2012 were read by Dr Sally Archer (new Junior Secretary) and agreed.

Dr Gembali was introduced as the new Senior Secretary. Dr David Young is the treasurer and Dr Damien Kelly and Mr S Thomas were welcomed as new council members.

There was a collection on behalf of The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund.

Amendments to this year's programme were highlighted. There is a meeting on the 11th December 2012 entitled 'Herbal Horrors'.

We were all invited to attend the Annual Medical Society Dinner on the 16th November 2012.

The proposed date of the Summer Event is 22nd June 2013.

We were encouraged to engage our trainees to enter for the Case Presentation Prize- the deadline is 13th January 2013.

Dr David Young introduced Dr Wendy Scott our new president and first ever lady consultant to hold the post, and handed over the Presidents medal to applause. Dr Scott thanked Dr Young for his hard work and interesting programme last year.

Dr Wendy Scott graduated from Aberdeen. She then trained in obstetrics and sexual health. Following this she became an obstetric anaesthetist.

She was the first female junior chair for the association of anaesthetists and went on to become president of anaesthetic division of the RSM in the past few years.

She was a consultant in Milton Keynes and came to Derby in 1999.

She has written and edited a number of books on 'Ethics in Anaesthesia'

Dr Scott presented a talk on 'Raising the consciousness of Doctors'

The full text can be accessed on the DMS web site

<http://www.derbymedicalsociety.co.uk/index.html>

Dr Scott reflected on the evolution of ethics in her medical career and explored issues in anaesthetics which had been triggered by her own experiences.

She reminded us of the teaching of Hippocrates, and how this had led to a paternalistic and nepotistic style of teaching in the past. Having conceded that things have changed for the better questioned if we now have a more 'tick box' style of teaching which is not desirable.

Dr Scott then questioned what it was that unites all Doctors. Is it the 'sanctity of human life?' She opened out the question by illustrating with examples of different ethical problems such as; care of the dying, assisted euthanasia, execution and abortion. These are all heavy subjects and she did not venture to give us any answers; just to raise our consciousness of these issues.

Dr Scott has seen advances in a number of areas of medicine in her career. She listed these as: Improvement for women and patient's choices. There is less discrimination against patient groups. Medical opportunities have improved for women and overseas graduates. She appreciates the advances of Keyhole surgery and the improvement in pain relief and regional anaesthesia.

In summary her conclusions are :

1. Respect as far as possible /practical peoples wishes.
2. Be aware of the ritual and requirements for dying in different cultural and religious groups.

3. If it is important to the patient then, as their doctor, it is important to you.

The next meeting is on 16th October 2012 entitled 'Healthcare workers and the Criminal Justice System'.

27 members signed the registration book.

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