

The Minutes of the meeting of the Derby Medical Society
Held on the 8th of January 2013 at the Derby Medical School

Apologies were received from Paul Cartwright, Ian Shand, Mark Sibbering, Nicola Brain, Sarah Milner and Dr Girn.

The Minutes were read and agreed.

The results of the bursary awards were announced. There were 15 applications. They were awarded to: Lee Shipman who is going to Nepal – he is using his bursary to buy basic medical supplies for a rural clinic. Also to Fiona Molloy who is going to Tanzania, to a rural hospital and also spending time with the Flying Doctors service. They both receive £250.

Dr Scott then had the pleasure of introducing this evening's speaker, Dr David Bogod, who is a consultant anaesthetist in Nottingham. He is currently President of the Obstetric Anaesthetists Association. He is Master of Laws and has previously been Editor in Chief of the journal 'Anaesthesia'.

He gave us a talk entitled 'The Perils and Pitfalls of Medical Publishing'

He started by giving us examples of published 'gems' from early medical journals. Timely preoperative assessment was recommended as early as 1949 and still remains good advice today.

Published articles can sometimes change practice. An example of 2006 'Anaesthesia' 'Give lipid infusion to treat local anaesthetic overdose' led to the majority of departments to stock 'Intralipid'.

However some articles which should change practice get over looked. For example the sampling of a peripheral line infused with dextrose led to the patient erroneously being given insulin, with a fatal outcome. This has been reported on 2 further occasions, i.e. not a well known pitfall.

Dr Bogod then gave us a list of 'how to not get published', this included; case reports, audits and surveys, and poor research; failure to follow authors guidelines, poor titles, too small numbers, poor statistics and too many variable factors. Other problems include failure to cross reference papers, plagiarism and fabrication. The examples of fabrication were scandalous!

The 'Committee on Publication Guidelines' (COPE) give good guidelines for authors and editors.

Dr Bogod then shared his thoughts on publication bias. There are a number of factors which affect this but editorial bias plays a large part. There is a tendency to publish positive results.

Trial registration is a way round this problem and to avoid the loss of unpublished data.

His tips for research are; ask clinically relevant questions, use proper statistics, plan and write up simply, in plain English. Read the reviewers comments.

An email copy of the presentation is available from david.bogod@me.com

Questions were taken from the floor.

A vote of thanks was given by Dr Bleiker.

The next meeting is 22nd January

33 members, guests and students signed the register.

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