

Minutes of the Derby Medical Society, Thursday 26th February 2026
Derby Medical School Lecture Theatre

Surgical Illusions: acting as a medical advisor for magicians.

Prof Bindy Sahota MD, FRCS(ORL-HNS)

Apologies: None Received

Professor Judd welcomed everyone to this the eighth meeting of the season. Minutes of the previous meeting are available on the website.

Professor Judd introduced the speaker, Prof Bindy Sahota, a Consultant H&N/Robotic Surgeon at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. He trained in ENT in the East Midlands and also had a Fellowship in Adelaide, Australia. He worked as a Consultant in Derby where his role included an academic interest in the role of HPV in H&N cancers.

Prof Sahota outlined what his 'day job' work as a consultant involves- a busy schedule of clinical duties and theatre lists with continuing academic interests in HPV and the role of vaccines and in medical education.

However he also has developed an interest in magic and has been able to keep this separate from his clinical work. He has had an interest in magic from early childhood. He was encouraged to develop his interest by a patient under his care and apply to the Nottingham Guild of Magicians. He was accepted in 2014. He has gone on to develop his skills as a magician and enjoys being in competitions. Areas that he has particularly developed are in mentalism. He explained the overlap between magicians and doctors in having skills in formatting and managing people.

He engaged the audience demonstrating some card tricks. He suggested enjoyment in a magicians performance is to avoid trying to decipher how the trick is done and just be in the moment.

Over recent years Prof Sahota has had an advisory role with magicians. He expanded on his involvement with a magician Kieran Johnson who has a international high profile. Kieron is able to perform a wide variety of effects, including regurgitating a mix of solid, gas, liquids and 'spouting'. With Kieron's permission, Prof Sahota's demonstrated with video clips some of these magic tricks. He then went on to enlighten how these were achieved. With a series of endoscopies and video fluoroscopy images he was able to unpick how the extraordinary control that Kieron has over the swallowing mechanism including manipulating his vallecula allows some of the tricks to be done.

Prof Sahota then went onto demonstrate his own close up magic skills that both entertained and stunned the audience. There followed an engaging question and answer session

Prof Judd gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the society to Prof Sahota for his truly amazing lecture.

31 guests and members signed the register.