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Welcome to the Cambridge Medical Society Newsletter April 2024.

The society has had a series of fascinating and enjoyable events in recent months. We are delighted to have the opportunity to invite speakers to our events to add to the enjoyment of meeting up with colleagues and friends on a regular basis.



On Friday 29th September 2023 a group of Cambridge Medical Society members were fortunate to spend **a morning at Royal Papworth Hospital**. We were welcomed by Prof John Wallwork, former Chairman of the trust and pioneering transplant surgeon and Eilish Midlane Chief Executive Officer. They took us through the history of the trust, developing from a TB hospital in the early twentieth

century to the development of cardiovascular services and cardiac transplantation in the mid twentieth century, to the new state of the art cardiovascular, respiratory and transplant centre, situated on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, next door to The Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Heart and Lung Research Institute (VPD-HLRI). While the move from the old hospital site in Papworth Everard, to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus was a long and arduous journey (ref: Stephen Bridge 'Battles Fought') the end result is impressive. We were able to visit the atrium and outpatient facility, the day wards and the inpatient rooms which are all single rooms with ensuite facilities and very light and airy. The cardiac intensive care unit was particularly impressive, the largest such unit in the UK.

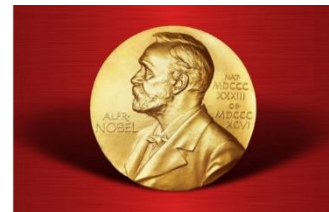
We were delighted that Dr Stephen Barclay was able to join us for dinner 28th February 2024 at the Gog Magog Golf Club.

Stephen started out as a full-time GP in the Fenland town of March, before moving to East Barnwell Health Centre in Cambridge. He continues to work clinically at the Cornford House GP practice in Cambridge and as Honorary Consultant at the Arthur Rank Hospice. He is Professor of Palliative Care at the University of Cambridge, where he leads the Cambridge University Palliative and End of Life Care Group “PELiCam” and the teaching of Palliative Care in the School of Clinical Medicine. He is Co-Clinical Lead for Palliative and End of Life Care for the Cambridge and Peterborough Integrated Care System and is Clinical Lead for the NHS East of England Strategic Clinical Network for Palliative Care.



His talk was entitled ‘**Palliative and End of Life Care for the changing UK population in an over-stretched health and care system**’. His experience of developing and applying the evidence base to the current practice of palliative care was tempered by his gentle and empathetic approach, whether in the clinic or teaching students. He developed his talk to discuss the current debate about the current attitudes to assisted dying and the possible change in the law.

We met again, on 11th April, at Madingley Hall for dinner and a talk. We were joined by Nick Barnes and his wife Jo, and Nick gave a talk entitled ‘**Cambridge, the Nobel prize and Medicine**’. Nick is a member of the Cambridge Medical Society and former paediatric consultant at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, and for many of us he was the authoritative and accessible consultant, to discuss and refer paediatric patients to, particularly as a GP. He wrote the go to book on paediatrics with Cliff Robertson in the 1980s – the Amazon review states “The writers are obviously extraordinarily well read in the relevant original papers; unlike many learned authors, they have a good nose for the relevant facts and a sure sense of proportion. Their tone of voice, while authoritative, is not provokingly dogmatic and does not challenge accepted truth without justification.”



That style shone through his talk on the Cambridge scientists who made such significant contributions to biology during the second half of the twentieth century to the present day: the structure of DNA and proteins to whole genome sequencing: monoclonal antibodies and the implications for modern therapeutics: reproductive biology and invitro fertilisation: stem cell biology and regenerative medicine.

What stood out was the modesty of all these men (they were all men) and the gift of their genius to mankind – a ‘donation to humanity’. Perhaps this explains to some extent why such a disproportionate number of Nobel laureates came from Cambridge.



The reception was held in the stunning grounds of Madingley Hall on a warm spring evening, a lovely opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends.

We look forward to meeting again over the coming months. Until then enjoy the spring, which appears to have arrived at last!

Mike Knapton April 2024