

# **MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY**

## **Section of Anaesthesia**

A meeting for the Section of Anaesthesia of the Manchester Medical Society was held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006** at the **Manchester Dental Education Centre, Higher Cambridge Street, University of Manchester.**

The meeting took the form of a symposium entitled “Anaesthesia in difficult circumstances” and commenced at **8.30 am.**

The President of the Section, Dr M D Trask welcomed the audience and introduced the speakers as follows:-

### **Dr P Foster**

(Consultant Anaesthetist, Central Manchester and Manchester Children’s University Hospitals NHS Trust)

#### **“Five years in Nepal”**

Dr Foster talked about some of his experiences working as an anaesthetist in Nepal. This included his work training International NGOs, within the field of Safer Motherhood, for the government of Nepal and traveling to remote areas to take part in surgical camps in remote areas. His talk also included some personal reflections of life in Nepal.

### **Dr Jim Down**

(Consultant Anaesthetist, University College Hospital)

#### **“The day the bomb went off”**

Dr Down was on call as a newly appointed consultant when the London underground was bombed by terrorists in July 2006. He spoke of the organizational issues of moving ICU patients around the city and of the manpower set up and interaction involved in a major incident. A very entertaining lecture but with strong messages.

### **Dr E Shardlow & Dr C Doherty**

(Registrars in Anaesthetics)

#### **“The Uganda Trip”**

Dr Shardlow & Dr Doherty trained at Manchester Medical School and are now both Year 1 Anaesthetic Registrars but at the time of their travel to

Uganda, had just completed their Anaesthetic SHO rotation. They ended up working in a remote hospital at the Sudanese border with limited facilities, on the border on the war zone, surrounded by land mines. A life changing experience.

**Dr A Bojarska**

(Consultant Anaesthetist, South Manchester University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust)

**“Gun shot injuries in Kenya”**

Dr Bojarska's spent couple of years working on various humanitarian missions mainly in Africa (Bangladesh). She worked with big relief agencies like Red Cross (Kenya), MSF (Liberia) and the Mercy Ships (Benin and Sierra Leone) and also at small mission hospitals (Cameroon, Bangladesh). The theme of this lecture was gun shot injuries in Kenya working with the red cross.

**Dr M Grocott**

(Senior Lecturer in Intensive Care Medicine, Centre for Aviation Space and Extreme Environment Medicine, University College London.  
Expedition Leader, Xtreme-Everest 2007)

**“Critical care with altitude?”**

Dr Grocott's lecture described how acute exposure to hypoxia at extreme altitude can kill in minutes. The process of altitude acclimatisation allows humans to survive in a profoundly hypoxic environment. A new paradigm suggests that human physiological responses to extreme environments, including high altitude, may reflect some of the physiology processes occurring in critical illness. In spring 2007 the Xtreme-Everest Expedition will conduct a detailed exploration of human responses to hypoxia at high altitude, and make physiological measurements up to the summit of Mount Everest. They hope that what they learn will contribute to improving the care of the critically ill.

The President gave a vote of thanks for the excellent lectures

A raffle was held and was won by Peter Alexander who unfortunately doesn't drink!

After the meeting a light buffet lunch was held in honour of the speakers.

Some 80 delegates attended the symposium and the section gratefully acknowledges the kind support of Organon.