



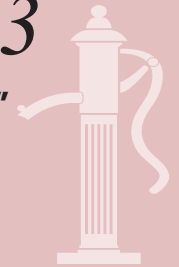
Pumphandle Lecture 2013

"From London to Mozambique, from cholera to konzo"

Julie Cliff

Thursday 5th September – 5:30 pm

John Snow Hall London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



Dr Julie Cliff trained in medicine in Melbourne Australia, and did hospital jobs in Australia and UK, before moving to Tanzania in 1974 to teach internal medicine at the University of Dar es Salaam. Based in Mozambique since 1976, she served first as Director of the Infectious Diseases Unit of Maputo Central Hospital, and later as Epidemiologist and then Head of the Epidemiology Section of the National Directorate of Health, Mozambique Ministry of Health. She ultimately moved fulltime to the Department of Community Health in the Faculty of Medicine of Eduardo Mondlane University, in Maputo. She has been an International Epidemiologic Fellow at CDC Atlanta and now holds appointments at the Centre for International Health at the Burnet Institute in Melbourne, and at the Department of Global Health, University of Washington in Seattle, in addition to her Professorship in Maputo.

With 40 years of experience as a clinician, epidemiologist and academic researcher she has been closely involved in the dramatic changes in African health and society of recent decades, and has dealt with an extraordinary variety of problems, including the initial recognition of the reemergence of "konzo" - an epidemic which she investigated with Hans Rosling (by coincidence, Pumphandle Lecturer 2011 !). Despite a foray into health policy research, investigating epidemics remains her favourite occupation.

The Lecture will be followed by the Society's Annual General Meeting, to be held at the John Snow Public House (at the corner of Broadwick and Lexington Streets, in Soho), to which all are invited....

The Lecture will be recorded and placed on the Society's website.

Pumphandle Lecture 2012

"What pump handles need to be removed to save the most lives in this century?"

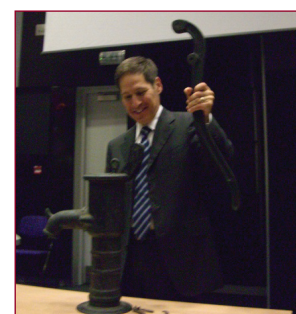
Tom Frieden

The 20th annual lecture in this series was given by Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Atlanta.

Dr Frieden focused on the challenge of preventing common causes of death, such as those from tobacco-related disease and unhealthy diets. Linking pump handles to levers in general, he quoted Archimedes - "Give me a place to stand and with a lever I will move the world", asserting that public health was the place to stand to 'lever' changes that could save lives. His experience as Commissioner of New York City Health Department showed that strategies such as advertising, banning unhealthy products, taxes and providing support to alter lifestyle can be effective. New York City became the first to eliminate trans-fats from restaurants, leading to far reaching changes in menus. Dr. Frieden gave other examples from a campaign in Uruguay that lowered smoking rates by 25% in three years, lowering saturated fat intake in Mauritius and the success in reducing average sodium intake in the UK.

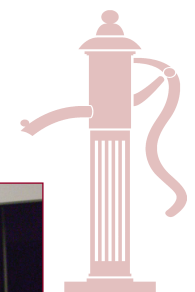
Yet there are no quick solutions, at least not effective ones, and public health programmes are expensive. The incentive for investing in prevention includes reducing the costs of health care and loss of productivity - estimated at 500 billion dollars a year world wide - as well as reducing premature deaths. It also requires a change of attitude in not accepting ubiquitous causes and signs of ill health, such as increasing hypertension with age, as a normal part of our environment. And, not least, it needs taking a long view, maintaining campaigns for the twenty or so years needed to see sustained effects, political support and the social acceptability of behavioural change, as has been shown with smoking.

With a range of examples including clean water, folic acid supplements and tuberculosis control, Dr. Frieden highlighted both the pump handles that can be



identified and the challenges in finding the right 'levers'. He held the large audience without using a single slide and the lecture concluded with the traditional removing of the handle from the Society's pump. Both speaker and enthusiastic Society members then retired to the John Snow pub to celebrate an inspiring lecture. A video of Dr. Frieden's presentation is available at: <http://www.johnsnowsociety.org/lectures/lecture2012.html>

Dr Ros Stanwell-Smith,
Hon. Sec, John Snow Society



John Snow Bicentenary Events

March 15th-16th and April 11th-12th 2013

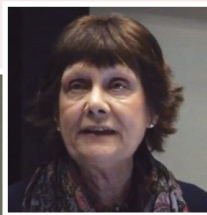
Several events have marked the bicentenary of John Snow's birth (March 15 1813), including a day-long meeting in York, Snow's birthplace, and a special session of the American Epidemiological Society. The biggest celebrations were held in London: two international meetings on the Legacy of John Snow and an art exhibition on disease mapping, all at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, sponsored by the John Snow Society (as well as the Wellcome Trust, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the International Epidemiological Association, the UK Arts Council, the History Centre of the LSHTM, and LSHTM), and supported by RSPH. Full programmes of the meetings are on the web at (<http://johnsnowbicentenary.lshtm.ac.uk/>), and videos of all presentations can be accessed via the John Snow Society website: (<http://www.johnsnowsociety.org/>)

March 15th–16th

The meeting on 15-16 March was devoted to "Mapping Disease, John Snow and Cholera", and began with a talk by Sandra Hempel, author of "The Medical Detective", a popular biography of John Snow on the bicentenary day (<http://vimeo.com/channels/johnsnow>).

In the reception which followed, Happy Birthday was sung around a gigantic cake with the famous Broad Street map on its icing. On the next day a series of papers on Snow's work and its implications were presented by Christopher Hamlin, Jan Vandenbrouke, Alejandro Cravioto, George Davey-Smith, Michael Dunnill, Tom Koch and Gordon Dougan.

Sandra Hempel speaking on Snow's 200th birthday ▶



▶ Pat Buffler, President-elect of the International Epidemiological Association, cutting the cake

The March meeting coincided with the opening of a month-long art exhibition entitled "Cartographies of life and Death", featuring archival material as well as contributions by contemporary artists. Original first and second editions of Snow's "On the mode of communication of cholera" were on display, along with works by William Farr and other nineteenth century documents on cholera, as well as maps from the LSHTM archives showing distributions of diseases in various locations over the past 200 years. Video installations showed the recent history of cholera in Haiti and displayed outbreak reports from around the world as accessed through PROMED. Contemporary artwork included paintings and drawings based upon cholera outbreak sites as viewed through Google maps, and impressions of the London sewers.

A special feature, which was displayed in the lobby of LSHTM throughout March and April, was a time-lapse video showing the locations of onsets of the fatal cholera cases in August and September 1854, against Snow's own map. Produced by Sebastian Funk, this is now freely available and may be accessed on the John Snow Society website at (<http://www.johnsnowsociety.org/>)



▶ "Tunnel" by Catherine Anyango, inspired by the London sewers (Photo by Ben Blossom)

▶ Lobby of LSHTM with exhibits, including simulation of Broad Street epidemic



SPECIAL EVENTS

April 11th–12th

The April 11-12 meeting was entitled “*Epidemiology: Today and Tomorrow*”, and included presentations by several well known experts in epidemiology and public health. It opened with a talk on “The Singular science of John Snow”, by Nigel Paneth, one of the authors of the definitive biography: “*Cholera, chloroform and the science of medicine*”, which brought out the extraordinary scope of Snow’s work and how the theme of “mode of communication” was a common thread through much of it, including in anaesthesia. The afternoon session began with reference to contemporary epidemiological methods (Ken Rothman on cause, David Spiegelhalter on risk, Cesar Victora on causes) and moved to consider themes related to Snow (Patrick Moore on new infectious agents, Val Curtis on hygiene, David Heymann on cholera). The day closed with a ceremonial unveiling of the Society’s pump, now installed in a cabinet outside John Snow Hall at LSHTM, in the form of videos of comments by Ken Calman (JSS member number 1), Sally Davies, Stephanie Snow, Richard Feachem, DA Henderson and Margaret Chan (see <http://www.johnsnowsociety.org/>).

Nigel Paneth speaking on the “singular science of John Snow”



The Society’s pump in its cabinet outside the John Snow Lecture theatre

Newsreader Jon Snow (no relation but, wishes he were) speaking at the Gala dinner



Gala dinner at the Wellcome Trust



Kenneth Calman, John Snow Society member number 1, with his first edition mug, unveiling

A Gala dinner was held at the Wellcome Trust where the best-known living Jon Snow (Channel 4 newsreader) gave a memorable talk ranging from his personal experiences in Uganda to contemporary politics.

The second day was even more adventurous, and began with an exploration of the “mode of communication” theme in the context of violence (Gary Slutkin) and financial networks (Bob May). Several aspects of intervention studies were discussed, including trial implementation (Vikram Patel), dealing with heterogeneity (Richard Peto) and the translation of trial results into policy (Ian Roberts). The afternoon went even further afield, with presentations showing how epidemiological methods are applied in crime science (Richard Wortley), economic interventions (Angus Deaton) and education (Carole Torgerson). The final session was devoted to a very topical issue: access to electronic databases, with supportive arguments by Liam Smeeth, cautionary views by Jonathan Montgomery and Jane Anderson, and contributions from many in the audience.

The panel debate was rudely interrupted by the entry of a tall gentleman in top hat and tails, who insisted on speaking, claiming he was Thomas Wakley, the once-editor of *The Lancet* who was responsible for an insultingly brief obituary of John Snow, and who had returned from the dead for this occasion. Some in the audience may have suspected that the current *The Lancet* Editor, Richard Horton, lurked beneath the massive sideburns, as the gentleman wove a complex tale of *The Lancet*’s treatment of Snow... leaving an air of question as to whether we were witnessing a justification or an apology. But, importantly, a revised obituary of Snow, as well as several papers stemming from the meeting, were published in *The Lancet* issue for 13-19 April 2013.

Of course the meeting ended at a certain well-known pub in Soho

Thomas Wakley (or was it Richard Horton?) explaining *The Lancet*’s complex relationship with John Snow



Texas Chapter REPORT

The Texas Chapter of the John Snow Society met at Midwestern State University on November 28, 2012 with 75 people in attendance. The officers of the chapter are Marty Gibson, President and Betty Bowles, Secretary. The chapter's annual Pump Handle Lecture entitled *"Drinking Water Treatment and Public Health"* was presented by Daniel Nix, Utilities Operations Manager for the city of Wichita Falls. Mr. Nix holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and a Class A Water Treatment License from the State of Texas. He is a member of Gamma Sigma Epsilon (Chemistry National Honor Society) and Sigma Gamma Epsilon (Earth Sciences National Honor Society). He has served in the water/wastewater industry for 27 years.



Daniel Nix, Pump Handle Lecture presenter for the Texas Chapter of the John Snow Society, is shown with Marty Gibson, Chapter President and Betty Bowles, Secretary.

Museum of Water and Water Bar

A strange yet alluring sight greeted visitors to Broadwick Street from 13th to 16th March. Next to the memorial pump was a water bar with a handsome glass sign, where free glasses of water were offered in cocktail glasses, to be consumed at the bar or at café tables. The exhibition was widely reported and prompted an enigmatic tweet from Yoko Ono: *"We're all water in different containers. That's why it's so easy to meet. Someday we'll all evaporate together."* Ros Stanwell-Smith and other speakers gamely took part as 'live exhibits' giving daily talks about water and of course Dr. John Snow. Customers also could contemplate the array of water samples from around the world in quaint cabinets. Donations included water from a holy river in India, a burst London water main, ice from a Sussex field, a melted snowman, 20-year-old evaporated snow from Maine, condensation from a Falmouth window and Hackney rainwater. The exhibition went on to appear at other sites and 130 donations had been received by June. This live artwork by the prize winning film maker and sculptor Amy Sharrocks was commissioned as part of the Cartographies of Life and Death exhibition at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and curated by Artakt, Central St Martins. Website: www.museumofwater.co.uk.



Dr Ros Stanwell-Smith as a live exhibit, and one of the cabinets from the exhibition.

'John Snow: Victorian example of the mind as parachute'



Lecture at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, Black Friars Lane, London EC4V 6EJ at 6pm on 14 November 2013

To complete this year's Bicentenary celebrations, the Sydenham Lecture held at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries will be given by Dr. David Wilkinson, President of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA), lecturer in the History of Medicine – and member of the JSS. The lecture and tea at 5.30pm is free but is followed by a subscription supper, which is always a convivial event. Members who are interested should apply to Mrs. Siobhán Taylor (facultyhp@apothecaries.org) and are welcome to bring guests. The lecture and supper are likely to be very popular and early application is advised (closing date 7th November). Payment details for the supper with wine (£32) below - make sure you give your name and 'Sydenham lecture' if paying by direct transfer. In your email, please state how many guests, whether for the lecture or the supper. Details of eponymous lectures at the Apothecaries can be found at:

<http://www.apothecaries.org/faculty-of-the-history-philosophy-of-medicine-parm/>

Cheques (£32 for each requiring supper) Payable to *"Society of Apothecaries"* Payment by Direct Transfer should be made to **Society of Apothecaries' No.7 Account** Sort Code: 18-00-02 Account Number: 05959640 quoting your Surname/Lecture Name

The Great Trouble: A Mystery Of London, The Blue Death, And A Boy Called Eel (Deborah Hopkinson)

Published by Random House Children's Books, this book will be released on October 8th, 2013. Recommended for readers age 10 and over, this novel is part medical mystery, part survival story, and part Dickensian adventure. It celebrates John Snow whilst telling an exciting, gripping, fictional investigative story about the 1854 London cholera epidemic.

Exclusive to JSS Members

The ever popular silk ties are still available to members for £16 (£12 if collected in person), and copies of the book *“John Snow: His Early Years”* by Dr Spence Galbraith, available at the special price of £5.

Discount is available for bulk purchases on these items.

The Society regrets that its supply of limited edition Sterling Silver pumps (lapel pins/brooches) has now run out. The cost of silver means that it may be difficult to replace them, but a Jewellery Subcommittee has been formed to investigate suitable alternatives and information will be made available on the website.

For a short time only we also have limited edition bicentenary mugs available.

Members can purchase up to two additional mugs at a cost of £5 each, plus £3 postage, £4 if posting abroad.



Please contact johnsnowsociety@rsph.org.uk for more details.

Postage review:

Because of general increases in postage, it has been decided that from 1st September 2013, postage charges for sending out Society mugs will be increased slightly to £3 for UK postage and £4 for posting abroad.

The John Snow plaque controversy - solved

In 1987, the Association of Anaesthetists placed a plaque to Dr. John Snow at the site of the former house at 54 Frith Street, Soho, now the only surviving plaque to any of his London homes. This address is well documented as his residence from 1838 to 1852. But apparent renumbering of the street led later to an alternative claim for 61 Frith Street, an original Georgian house, which some members may recall visiting in 2004 as part of a walk commemorating the 1854 outbreak. When 61 Frith Street was put up for sale in 2013, the estate agents wished to publicise the reputed connection with Dr. Snow and the John Snow Society was approached to confirm whether he had lived in that house. The renumbering claim was based on a map produced in 1792 by Richard Horwood, which showed only 60 houses in the street, rather than the present 67, and number 54 at the current site of number 61. Maps showing street

John Snow Society Steering Committee

Nominations please!

In the spirit of the meticulous Dr. Snow, we have this year revised our constitution - the updated version will be available on the website.

The John Snow Society Steering Committee (J3SC) meets formally once a year to decide on policy and any proposals that need to be put to members at the AGM in the pub, following the annual Pumphandle lecture. Changes in the constitution include limiting the size of the J3SC to 12, making the five main founders permanent members to keep a watch on its development (listed first in list below) and to contribute to its tasks. Membership database confidentiality is now included in the constitution, as is commitment to a minimum of emails. We also plan to make the Pumphandle President and Secretary an annually elected position in the J3SC. Members are appointed for three years, which is renewable.

There will be three vacancies on the J3SC from September 2013 and we invite nominations for members in good standing (i.e. with an intact mug and membership card). We would like one member to be an anaesthetist as Dr. Adrien Padfield has stood down - but otherwise welcome all John Snow enthusiasts, the only condition being ability to attend the AGM. Apart from the annual meeting, we communicate on committee matters by email, so it is not a time consuming activity. A valid nomination will consist of a statement of 54 words by the nominee, indicating eagerness to serve and vision for the Society. Applications will be selected by the J3SC for ratification during the AGM at the John Snow Pub. Please get in touch with the Society (johnsnowsociety@rsph.org.uk) if you are interested in nominating or have any queries. In the event of more than three nominations, an email poll of the membership will be conducted in advance of the AGM using SurveyMonkey, for members who agree to participate.

Current Committee members are:

Paul Fine (Hon. Pumphandle President), Ros Stanwell Smith (Hon. Pumphandle Secretary), Mary O'Mahony (Treasurer), Jimmy Whitworth, Dilys Morgan, Sandy Cairncross, John Watson, David Heymann, Oliver Cumming, Sabine Gabrysch and Juliet Drummond.

numbers are rare and later maps showed confusing numbering, which did not resolve the mystery, nor was there any official evidence of the street being renumbered. In a joint investigation by Dr. Ros Stanwell-Smith and Dr. David Zuck, census, estate and fire insurance records indicated that the renumbering occurred in the 1820s, at a time when such matters were not yet regulated. This was pinpointed to 1821 by following items about known residents and businesses of Frith Street in newspaper archives. The evidence shows that the plaque is correctly sited and can no longer be described as “debatable” (UCLA website on John Snow). The paper was presented at the 2013 History of Anaesthesia annual conference and will be published online in the Proceedings of that society.

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The newsletter of the John Snow Society