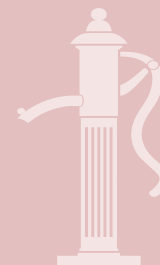


22nd Pumphandle Lecture 2014



"Medicine and Public Health: divorced for too long"

Professor Jeremy Farrar

Thursday 11th September – 5:30 pm

John Snow Hall London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Jeremy Farrar is Director of the Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in health by supporting the brightest minds. Before joining the Trust he was Director of the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam, where his research interests were in infectious diseases, tropical health and emerging infections. He has contributed to 500 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and served on several World Health Organization advisory committees.

Jeremy was appointed OBE in 2005 for services to Tropical Medicine, and he has been awarded the Memorial Medal and Ho Chi Minh City Medal from the Government of Vietnam, Frederick Murgatroyd Prize for Tropical Medicine by the Royal College Physicians and the Bailey Ashford Award by the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and chairs the International Severe Acute Respiratory and Emerging Infection Consortium, a global initiative to share data about emerging diseases that could become epidemics or pandemics.

Join us for this annual and always memorable event of the John Snow Society at 5.30pm in the John Snow Lecture Theatre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine – followed by the AGM at the John Snow Pub. Come early to secure a good seat – but the lecture will be recorded and available from the Society's website if you can't attend.

Pumphandle lecture and AGM 2013

"From London to Mozambique, from cholera to konzo" Julie Cliff

For the 21st lecture in the Pumphandle series we were treated to a fascinating mix of epidemiological and family history from Professor Julie Cliff, who travelled from Maputo, Mozambique to speak in the John Snow Lecture Theatre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Julie Cliff trained in medicine in Australia and holds appointments in Melbourne and Washington as well as her Professorship in Maputo. She also studied tropical medicine and community health at the LSHTM and the title of her lecture 'From London to Mozambique, from cholera to konzo' was an apt but not comprehensive summary of her 40-year career in clinical and epidemiological work. Cholera was one of the first problems she tackled in Africa, but a personal interest linked her to the research by Dr. John Snow into this infectious disease. In the hot late July of 1849 her ancestor James Linnett died of cholera in Lambeth, one of the districts studied by Snow with regard to water supply. A further 22 deaths were recorded in the same street and a memorial plaque in Lambeth commemorates this outbreak.

Seven years later, a surviving son emigrated to Australia, becoming Julie Cliff's great great grandfather. John Snow's observations on person-to-person transmission of cholera proved relevant to the hospital epidemic of cholera that Julie investigated in Mozambique in the early 1980s. A historical parallel can also be drawn with the 1830s, when 'cholera riots' erupted in London. In Mozambique, there have been angry demonstrations about the perceived attitudes of authorities during cholera epidemics. Chlorination of water in Mozambique is used in cholera control, although hampered because the words for 'chlorine' and 'cholera' sound similar in Portuguese.

Julie Cliff's investigation of a reported paralysis outbreak, during a drought in 1981, resulted in a lifelong obsession with diseases related to the staple crop, cassava. The cyanogenic glucosides in cassava need to be removed by processing, but with food shortage, people had been too hungry to allow the usual sun drying time for the crop. This nutritional disease was named Konzo, after an early description of it in the Belgian Congo in the 1930s. It



had been forgotten until its re-emergence in Mozambique. Julie Cliff has continued to seek simple preventive solutions, but as this elegant presentation illustrated, nothing is ever quite so simple, requiring research, understanding of perceptions, well targeted health promotion and, not least, a knowledge of history.

The lecture was followed by the Annual General Meeting of the John Snow Society at the pub bearing his name in Soho. A video of the lecture is available on our [website www.johnsnowsociety.org](http://www.johnsnowsociety.org).

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

About the society

John Snow Society Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the John Snow Society met on 28th July 2014 to continue its work - with the Royal Society of Public Health and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine - to develop a more sustainable way forward for the Society after the past 22+ years, when it was held together by the ad hoc work of the Steering Committee, and especially that of Ros Stanwell-Smith and Paul Fine. A series of documents that will lay out a way to ensure sustainability of the Society in the future, while maintaining its quirky and out-of-the-ordinary functioning (which other Society that you know holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at a pub?), is being developed for review and approval. As the new operating procedures may define a new and simplified – but no less quirky - procedure for membership on the Steering Committee and other activities of the Society, no new members will be sought this year.

The current Committee up to the 2014 AGM comprises:

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

Reports from Chapters of the Society

▶ John Snow Society Scandinavia

The annual meeting for June 2013 was conducted with style by Asle Aasen, General Secretary. Lectures for this bicentenary event included an excellent presentation by Truls Krough on OGH (Our Great Hero). The pumphandle award for 2014 (Helsinki, 3 June 2014) was awarded to Erik Arvin, Technical University of Denmark, for his significant contribution to international water science, including research into removal of benzene, pesticides and arsenic, on processes to reduce leakages in the distribution system, to address organic contamination from plastic pipes and on the purification of polluted ground water – to name a few. He is a Knight of Dannebrog and Professor Emeritus in water supply, having been the first to hold the chair of Professor in Water Supply at the Technical University. The selection jury commented that, "His enthusiasm and engagement, far beyond duty, is in the spirit of John Snow." The John Snow Society warmly congratulates this worthy recipient of the Pumphandle!



▶ Texas Chapter

The Texas Chapter of the John Snow Society presented its annual Pumphandle Lecture on March 28, 2014 at 1:00 pm at Midwestern State University. Daniel Nix, Operations Manager for the Public Works Department of Wichita Falls, explained a variety of waterborne diseases, the city's water reuse project, and the process of water purification. The lecture had 55 persons in attendance. [Reported by Marty Gibson, President and Betty Bowles, Secretary of the Chapter]

We love to hear what John Snow Society members are getting up to all over the world, so please do send us your news at johnsnowsociety@rsph.org.uk

New committee representative for anaesthesia

Dr. Stephen Jefferys will be representing anaesthesia interests on the Steering Committee. He qualified in Cardiff, Wales, where there was a strong interest in the history of anaesthesia and he worked in several countries before establishing a practice in pain management in Kelowna, Canada. During junior posts he administered ether by the open technique (Snow's "a la Reine"), still used for simplicity in the field by the military – although chloroform was abandoned many years ago, because it was regarded as too dangerous. Stephen would be delighted to hear from anaesthetist/ anesthesiologist members or any of you with an interest in anaesthesia (please contact the Society and we'll put you in touch). He is unable to attend the AGM but his 54 word poem on his hero, Dr. Snow, will be presented.



Dr Jefferys, centre with nurse and radiographer colleagues

▶ New chapter in South Carolina

Julia Robison, just starting studies at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine - Greenville is planning to start a chapter of the Society: members at this university or who could get to meetings should please contact the Society so that we can put you in touch with her.

▶ A hello from New Zealand!

Hello from Ross Lawrenson from the University of Auckland. We have a strong public health group here as well as a medical history group that meet regularly. I also try and send my PhD students to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for the advanced epidemiology course – one who attended last year managed to attend the Pump Handle Lecture which was a great experience for her. Do get in touch with the Society if you are a JSS member in New Zealand.

▶ Mozambique Chapter

Our speaker for the 21st Pumphandle Lecture, Professor Julie Cliff, has set up a local chapter for the Society in Maputo, Mozambique. On 13th November 2013, she gave an abbreviated version of the Pumphandle Lecture to a gathering of LSHTM alumni in Maputo. The occasion was an opportunity to sign up new members of the John Snow Society and commemorate the legacy of John Snow in cholera control in Mozambique.



Julie Cliff with new members Francesca de Maria and Angelica Salomão at the inaugural meeting

Snow in the media.

Films featuring cholera or anaesthesia

There have been TV and radio dramatisations of John Snow's work on cholera, but so far, the only movie version of Snow's life is the short film 'Snow the Movie'*. Cholera has intrigued film-makers since the 1930s, while anaesthesia is much less well represented, usually shown as an essential side-show to operation scenes and then with rare attention to accuracy. Cholera, on the other hand, appears to inspire passion against a deathly back-drop, often with vague or misleading representations of the disease. For those looking for facts, this list includes a few of the documentaries on both cholera and anaesthetic technique. While we await a full-length film about the life and times of Dr. Snow, the short selection below may be of interest. Please contact us with other films that we could add to the 'Snow themes' in the media collection. The links below are for private rather than commercial viewing, although some include the full film.

Films with cholera in the plot

*Snow the Movie

Short (22 minute) film by Issac Ergas, describing the role of Dr. John Snow in standing up to "the city's most powerful players in exposing the ugly truth about London's water supply." A paean to Snow as the "father of modern epidemiology" and despite some inaccuracies, a dark and dramatic first attempt to portray this part of Snow's work.

[<http://www.snowthefilm.com/> and YouTube trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41TlcxHYTU0>]



The Painted Veil (2006).

Based on W. Somerset Maugham's 1925 novel, telling the story of a medical microbiologist who punishes his faithless wife by taking her to a remote Chinese village ravaged by cholera, where the experience transforms them both. Earlier adaptations of this Maugham story include a 1934 version with Greta Garbo and one in 1957 titled 'The Seventh Sin'.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJtLNDRLLeis&feature=youtube_gdata

Love in the Time of Cholera (2007)

Based on the 1985 novel by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the backdrop is cholera-afflicted Cartagena, Colombia in 1879 but the main theme is the many affairs of the hero, Florentino, after the love of his life rejects him.

YouTube trailer and access to free viewing: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-Rv7BKeMHc&feature=youtube_gdata

Baseball in the Time of Cholera (2012).

Short film supporting the compensation claims of the Haitian cholera victims of 2010 and featuring a baseball player caught up in the epidemic and its politics. Available on YouTube and at: <http://vimeo.com/45573842>

Horseman on the Roof (Le hussard sur le toit) (1995).

Europe in 1832, in turmoil of revolution and the arrival of cholera, featuring an Italian colonel on the run in southern France. Admired for its evocation of the period and reaction to a terrifying epidemic, but criticised for inaccurate romanticised portrayal of cholera symptoms – although the bizarre treatments are worth a look. Trailer at: <http://www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi2121728793>

Death in Venice (Morte a Venezia) (1971).

Visconti film based on German novella Der Tod in Venedig (1912, Thomas Mann). An author (composer in the film) becomes obsessed with a teenage boy, while staying in Venice during a cholera outbreak.

YouTube trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4N8B1ggYc4>

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (1994).

A surprising entry, as cholera does not feature in the novel, but in the film directed by Kenneth Branagh, an outbreak of cholera is occurring in the area where the monster (Victor) gets loose. YouTube trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lg17y6iz7Xs>

Medicine in film stills.

Interesting collection by the University of Salamanca, with cholera-themed images from fictional films and documentaries. http://campus.usal.es/~revistamedicinacine/Vol_3/3.4/ing.3.4.pdf/colera_ing.pdf

For factual accounts of anaesthesia and its 20th century history, a good start is the archive collection of the History of Anaesthesia Society: <http://www.histansoc.org.uk/video.html>

Factual films

The Story of Cholera: Global Health Media Project (2011).

<http://globalhealthmedia.org/story-of-cholera/videos/the-story-of-cholera/> also available on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdCAOG6dea4&feature=youtube_gdata

Cholera in Haiti

– six short animated films produced by UNESCO and the Haiti Ministry of Public Health to raise awareness in young people. [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/news-and-in-focus-articles/all-news/news/cholera_in_haiti_unesco_produces_animated_films_to_raise_young_peoples_awareness-1/#.Uu-UIRxJWDI]

Cholera Silent Film.

European History Project short film (2012) available on YouTube, made like an old silent movie with tongue-in-cheek titles. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqhQnZhf1s&feature=youtube_gdata

Films featuring anaesthesia

Awake (2007)

features a clairvoyant experience under anaesthesia for a cardiac transplant: but anaesthetists (UK)/ anesthesiologists (US) criticised the poor science and inaccurate portrayal of anaesthetic techniques. You Tube trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3eEauXSQIA>

Anaesthesia awareness (consciousness during operations) is a theme also covered in the short horror film Anesthesia, 2006.

The Keys of the Kingdom (1944):

based on A J Cronin's 1938 novel The Citadel, this features Gregory Peck giving ether or possibly chloroform by the à la Reine method which was used by Snow for Queen Victoria's last two babies.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Keys-Kingdom-Gregory-Peck/dp/B008ETEFOQ> More info and film stills at: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0036983/>



Spiderman 2 (2004):

Includes sequence showing an anesthesiologist being destroyed by 'Doctor Octopus' (anaesthesia seems irrevocably linked with science fiction and fantasy!).

Gifted hands: the Ben Carson Story (2009).

The hero overcomes poverty and prejudice to become a paediatric neurosurgeon, with anaesthesia well demonstrated in the many operating theatre scenes. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDFs3chUoi8>

Scream: the history of anaesthetics (2004).

TV film, including dramatised account of early anaesthesia and commentaries (including by a JSS member!) on this video extract: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NH6li0t_FOI

Malice (1993).

Thriller featuring the ever-popular theme of a psychotic doctor. Contains operating theatre scenes, apparently with advice from an anesthesiologist. Full movie at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m1H2zTJ7Rw>

Article 99 (1992).

A film with gross anaesthetic inaccuracies (recommended to see for a laugh), with a 'MASH' style plot based in a Kansas City hospital for war veterans. Film clips on YouTube e.g.: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tJevnL1sWk>

NAMED IN HONOUR OF DR. SNOW

Apart from the pub, there's a growing list of buildings and rooms named after Dr. John Snow...

Please send in any others that you know about.

John Snow College, part of Durham University at Stockton-on-Tees.

John Snow House, headquarters of the Royal Society for Public Health, Mansell Street, London

John Snow Hall (Lecture Theatre), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel St.

The John Snow Room at BMA [British Medical Association] House in Tavistock Square, London

John Snow room (deluxe with 4-poster bed!) at the Hazlitt's Hotel Frith Street (Dr. Snow lived nearby)

The John Snow House in Calgary commemorates an artist with the same name.

John peeks
in at the
2013 AGM...



Photo credit: Katherine Theiss-Nyland, Ph.D. student at LSHTM

Exclusive to JSS Members

The bicentenary mug has nearly run out, but a 9th edition mug has been ordered: the mug is free to new members but £5 each if you want to add to your collection (members can purchase up to three mugs, postage £3 within UK or £4 overseas). The elegant pump design silk ties are £12 if collected in person or £16 by post. This year we are offering a very limited edition of hand-made solid silver pump earrings (one with a pumphandle, the matching one with the handle off), which cost £45, or £49 by post within UK. Very limited number so these could sell out fast: contact us if you would like to pre-order and collect at the AGM. The illustrated book by Dr. Spence Galbraith (John Snow: His Early Years) will be given free with all purchases collected personally and to members joining at the AGM, or a bargain £1 (£3 by post) to existing members.

We welcome suggestions from members for other commemorative items, but with our limited funds and administration, we can only rarely take on their manufacture and purchase. If you would like to arrange the latter for an item that you think would appeal to members, please contact the Commemorative Items Subgroup (c/o the Society) and if approved, we should be happy to display the information on the website.



Educational resources about Dr. Snow

The Society receives queries about resources on the cholera story, including those suitable for children and young students. Here are a few:

'Dr John Snow - the game'. <http://www.choleraandthethames.co.uk/education-resources/dr-john-snow-game/> The game is part of the Cholera and Thames project sponsored by the Heritage Lottery fund and the website has some good images and stories which bring the plight of London's water in the 19th century vividly to life. <http://www.choleraandthethames.co.uk/>

'Snow' - a short movie about Dr. Snow: <http://www.snowthemovie.com/> [this has a trailer, also available on YouTube]

Science Museum info about Dr. Snow:

<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttolife/people/johnsnow.aspx> [this gives a short biography]. There is an interactive map in the Science Museum's 'Making the Modern World' series, which also tells the story of the outbreak as you solve the clues:

http://www.makingthemodernworld.org.uk/learning_modules/geography/05.TU.01/?section=2

In addition, 'The Great Trouble' by Deborah Hopkinson, mentioned in last year's newsletter, is a fictional account of the pump/ cholera outbreak, in which a young mudlark helps Dr. Snow to solve the mystery – suitable for ages 10 and up, this is accurate for the outbreak details, although there's no evidence that Snow had a young assistant!

Please let us know of any other resources you can recommend, including simple sites explaining microbes and anaesthesia.



The John Snow Society is now on Facebook!
Like us and feel free to post on the wall!
www.facebook.com/JohnSnowSociety

The Dr. Snow memorial in Brompton Cemetery

A serious omission from last year's Broadsheet was the visit to his grave by the Association of Anaesthetists for Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) and the History of Anaesthesia Society (HAS) to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Dr. John Snow's birth. We are delighted to include this now (please note the prominent white roses for York!). The monument was replaced by the AAGBI after WWII and the historic Brompton Cemetery (1840) is one of the finest garden cemeteries in the country, now part of The Royal Parks. It was designed as an 'open air cathedral' with fine buildings, colonnades and a tree lined avenue. But it is sadder to report that while the Snow monument is in good shape, the tombstone lettering is seriously eroded (particularly the section at base, obscured by the wreaths in the photo) and the surrounding grass is cut infrequently, so it tends to be over-grown. The AAGBI and HAS hope to raise funds to repair the tombstone and to help with garden upkeep. The JSS would like to raise at least £200 towards this cost: there will be a collection at the AGM and meanwhile please contact the Society if you feel able to donate to this worthy cause. There are also plans to produce a leaflet about Dr. Snow and others interred at the Brompton Cemetery and an application is being submitted for a conservation project. Meanwhile, the gardens are well worth a visit (Sunday afternoon tours by the Friends of Brompton Cemetery, <http://www.brompton-cemetery.org/>) and apart from monuments to other notables, it is also recognisable from several films.



Left: William Harrop-Griffiths, President AAGBI; Right: Adrian Padfield (HAS and former anaesthetist representative on the John Snow Society Steering Committee)

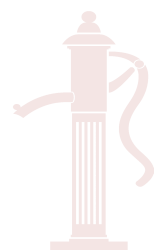
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The newsletter of the John Snow Society