



# Medical Alumni Association

Supporting our medical students & junior staff

## Spring 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to the May 2019 Christ's College Medical Alumni Association (CCMAA) newsletter. The CCMAA is the alumni part of the Christ's College Medical Society (CC Med Soc) and we work closely with the medical student members. A date for your diaries is **Saturday April 18th 2020** when we host our next bi-annual conference and dinner in College. We will also have a CCMAA Committee meeting at 11 am before the Conference.

We are in the process of planning the event and would welcome ideas from students and alumni. Please remember, though, that we do like to get speakers who are either current members of the College or Alumni. We want the event to engage medical students and have therefore chosen the weekend before term starts in the hope that the timing will enable better attendance by them. It will mean, however, that the College will not have rooms available to stay overnight.

### Recent events

There have been a couple of key events, which we have organised since our last bi-annual Conference held in April 2018.

The first was a talk on '*Medical Negligence- ethics and the law*' given by Robert Weir QC (m. 1988) on the 11th October 2018. Robert is a Barrister at Devereux Chambers in London and specialises in personal injury and clinical negligence matters. Amongst other roles he has been Chair of the Personal Injuries Bar Association and is an arbitrator for the Personal Injury Claims Arbitration Service. He has won numerous awards including the Eclipse Proclaim Personal Injury award's outstanding case of 2015. This related to the case of *X v Dartford NHS Trust & Gravesham* (2015) 1 WLR 3647 Court of Appeal which accepted Robert's submission to change the approach to anonymity in approval hearings.

Robert studied Medicine at Christ's but switched to Law and after graduating did an MA in Law at Kings College, London. He was called to the Bar in 1992 and took Silk in 2010. When asked why he switched from medicine to the law he says that he 'was too squeamish and it is a lot easier being a lawyer and talking, than a doctor and doing'. His talk in College was well attended by medical students, a Christ's law student and Alumni. We were grateful to the Master Jane Stapleton who attended the talk, and gave us the benefit of her academic and professional contribution in the field, and also joined us at High Table in College for dinner.

The other main event was the visit to the Francis Crick Institute in London on the 16th November 2018. The visit was facilitated by our Patron, Prof Sir Keith Peters, and hosted by Prof Sir Richard Treisman (m. 1974) who is Research Director at the Institute and Honorary Fellow of Christ's College. The Institute is a unique partnership between six of the world's leading biomedical research organisations – the MRC, CRUK, the Wellcome Trust, UCL, Imperial CL and KCL. It is a biomedical discovery research centre dedicated to understanding the biology underlying health and disease. It was formed in 2015 and brings together 1500 scientists and support staff in a modern, state of the art, building in London near St Pancras station.

The joint visit was fascinating and we heard from four clinical researchers who gave us an insight into why they had chosen this career path and what research area they were involved with. We were also able to have a guided tour of this wonderful modern building, designed to encourage cross fertilisation between the various disciplines and research groups. There was a real enthusiasm communicated by the young researchers and a palpable 'buzz' as we visited the Institute. Thanks to Prof Keith Peters who joined us for the visit and had played a crucial role in the concept and planning of the Institute.

Since our last newsletter Dr Isabel Huang-Doran (m. 2004) has become our Secretary. Isabel is a relatively new Fellow at Christ's and her academic research interest is in reproductive biology. She is a Clinical Lecturer in Endocrinology in the Wellcome/MRC Metabolic Medicine Centre at Addenbrooke's Hospital. We are delighted that Isabel has agreed to support this work.

Dr Tony Jewell (m. 1969)  
President