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Mending Broken Hearts: Clinical approaches to the repair of heart disease

Mr Stephen Large MA MS FRCS FRCP FETCS MBA., Consultant Surgeon, Papworth Hospital

7.30 p.m., Monday 14th May, 2007
The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge

Mr Large writes:

My lecture will be on:

- 1 what heart failure is
- 2 what medics do about heart failure
- 3 what surgeons do about heart failure and how we work with physicians on this
- 4 what's on the horizon in the context of "reverse remodelling", be it
 - surgical "forced reverse remodelling"
 - cell therapy-based
- 5 Questions and (I pray) – Answers!

About the Speaker:

Mr Large writes: "I was born in Northern Rhodesia in 1952 and educated (a very loosely used word here) by the Society of Friends in Somerset. I entered medical education at Guy's Hospital probably at too young an age (17) being charmed in those early days of 70s by the early forays into heart transplantation in this country. Medicine although totally fascinating moved too slowly then and so specialist surgery won the day. My cardio-thoracic training took place at St. Bartholomew's, the Brompton Hospital, Papworth and Birmingham Alabama. This was followed by a return to the comparative norm of East Anglia. Here I have stayed since my appointment to consultancy in 1989 and have retained my directorship of the Heart Transplant Programme. The challenges thrown down by this course have caused me to gain Fellowship of both the medical and surgical colleges in London and an MBA. With this and a higher diploma in myocardial ischaemia work I felt near adequately equipped to deal with the task in hand. It's been intriguing, demanding, sleepless on occasions, bloody often but with no doubt an enormous privilege!"

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The Organising Secretary adds.....

Sometimes, I get frustrated by the non-availability of our speakers for the simple task of telling me what it is that they intend to talk about!!! Those of a medical persuasion, I have found, are particularly remiss in this.

You will, perhaps, remember the most excellent lecture given by another of Papworth's Master Surgeons, Francis Wells¹? I had a professional (work) reason to contact him recently, and I found it almost impossible to find a time to meet. Eventually, I and a colleague fetched up at Papworth at around 6.30pm on a Friday evening. Mr Wells was in theatre, and eventually emerged an hour or more later. Whilst we waited, we watched as the other surgeons wrote up their notes on their latest cases ('notes' include video files of the surgery, ultrasonic imaging of blood flows etc etc). I was hugely impressed, and came to appreciate at first-hand the commitment and dedication these professionals give to their patients.

This will be an excellent, if unusual, lecture; one 'shimmied in' between the extreme workload of the country's finest surgeons. We get some really excellent lectures at the CSAR, and luring a surgeon away from their state-of-the-art operating theatre is no mean achievement²!

Best Regards

Richard Freeman, CSAR Organising Secretary

Coffee available, as usual, in the foyer outside the lecture theatre from ~7.00 p.m.

You will notice a change in my address; I no longer work for Sagentia, so I am organising your CSAR lectures from my home!

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¹ Leonardo da Vinci's excellent work on the mitral valve; Mr Well's speciality, as it happens

² This will be about the fourth occasion, to my certain knowledge, when we have been blessed with the tales of surgeons 'straight out of theatre'.

