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CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY FOR THE APPLICATION OF RESEARCH

NOTE CHANGE OF START TIME – ONE HOUR EARLIER THAN LAST YEAR!!

**Making a marginal difference:
The impact of intensive care on outcome from head injury.**

Monday 28th January, 2002: **7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.**¹

The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Cambridge

Abstract

Head injury is responsible only for 1% of all adult deaths, but represents 15% of deaths in the 15-45 year age bracket, and is one of the most important causes of death in this group. Importantly, over two-thirds of patients who survive have significant deficits. While surgical treatment plays an important part in patients who have a bleed into the brain as a consequence of head injury, much of the damage that results from head trauma cannot be treated surgically, and remains an important cause of disability. Much of this disability is due to reductions in blood supply to the injured brain as a consequence of various mechanisms that are activated after head injury. High quality intensive care can lessen this problem, and improve clinical outcome. The talk will describe how we can use modern imaging techniques to quantify such blood flow reductions more accurately, understand the mechanisms that are responsible, and help characterise the outcome from head injury.

About the Speaker

Professor David Menon trained in magnetic resonance spectroscopy, and his recent work has been in positron emission tomography in acute brain injury. He works in the Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre (next to Laurie Hall's lab on the Forvie Site, next to Addenbrooke's). He established the Neurosciences Critical Care Unit at Addenbrooke's, where he was its first Clinical Director. He now holds the Chair of Anaesthesia at the University. Professor Menon studied at the University of Madras, at the Royal College of Physicians in London, and at the University of London

About the Subject (*Organising Secretary's notes*)

I feel something of a fraud; I invited Professor Menon to talk, because I thought that we'd find anaesthesia an interesting subject. In the absence of anything more substantial, I coined the original title '**And the Lord Cast Adam into a Deep Sleep**'. This was based on a schoolboy memory about the early days of anaesthetics. There was a dreadful row from the Scottish Calvinist Church concerning the use of anaesthesia in childbirth. The Calvinists claimed that the Bible stated clearly that women were supposed to suffer in childbirth; the debate was finally settled with the passage from Genesis, referring to the removal of a rib from Adam to make Eve.

Although David Menon is the Professor of Anaesthesia at the University, he is not going to talk about anaesthesia; instead, on his work on intensive care of head injuries (which includes strokes and the like)

Richard Freeman
Organising Secretary

¹**Note:** We have now decided to **KEEP** the **earlier** start time of **7.30 p.m.**; Thanks to all who voted, and sorry to those who wanted to revert to the later time – we hope you will continue to support us, nevertheless

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