

Surgeons operate at St Saviourgate

St Saviour Lodge of Installed Masters No 8433 was host to a much appreciated presentation in York attended by many masons, their wives and other non-masonic friends, by four Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons whose research is being funded by grants from the Grand Lodge 250th Anniversary Fund.

Prior to proceedings, Martyn Coomer, Secretary to the College Research Board, made a surprise presentation to W. Bro Ralph Peacock in recognition of his long association with fund-raising for the College and in particular referred to the fact that it was Ralph who instigated the first of many presentations by RCS members to Masonic meetings.

The speakers were introduced by Andrew Raftery FRCS, a well known Consultant Surgeon from Sheffield, whose own specialty is kidney transplantation.

Ravinder Vohra MRCS from Leeds General Infirmary regaled the meeting on how “bad” fat particles cause heart disease, little knowing the choice of menu at the meal provided afterwards.

Sophie Noblett MRCS from the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne gave a stunning overview of her research into enhancing recovery after colorectal surgery.

She was able to demonstrate a dramatic reduction in the discomfiting experiences (now followed by other hospitals around the country) in pre-operation procedures and the enhancement of post-operative care so minimizing the trauma of patients and the time spent in hospital.

Nicholas Lansdale MRCS from Alder Hey Children's Hospital Liverpool held outstretched the palms of his conjoined hands to demonstrate the size of his smallest patients, before describing his work on the development of a control switch for lung rescue in babies with small lungs.

Babies born without diaphragms separating their lungs from their abdomens having organs such as the liver or kidneys in their lung cavity could easily be operated on to correct this, but preventing the long term and potentially life-threatening damage to the lungs was the target of his research.

Arin Saha MRCS, also from Leeds General Infirmary, has been investigating the response to chemotherapy, usually employed with distressing side effects and in a number of cases without any positive benefit, for up to three months before operation for the treatment of oesophageal cancer. His research is targeting indicators in DNA which would point out factors leading to the welcome avoidance of non-beneficial procedures for many patients

Each of the speakers expressed gratitude to Freemasonry for providing the funding enabling them to carry out their research. The Royal College is a Charity solely dependent on donations and our Grand Charity is its largest donor.



From left to right Ravinder Vohra, Sophie Noblett, W. Bro Ralph Peacock, Andrew Lafferty and Arin Saha.