



THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON  
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Dear Fellow,

The first meeting in November will be held at 8.00pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 when Ms Rachel Hargest MD FRCS will speak on

**MINIMAL ACCESS COLORECTAL SURGERY-  
WILL TRADITIONAL SURGEONS BE PUT OUT OF A JOB?**

*Rachel Hargest is an academic colorectal surgeon at Cardiff University and the University Hospital of Wales. She is a member of the Cardiff China Medical Research Collaborative. Her clinical interests include anal cancer, advanced/recurrent colorectal cancer, polyposis and other familial cancer syndromes. Her colorectal practice also includes intestinal failure for which the Cardiff team won the BMJ Gastroenterology Team of the Year Award in 2015. Research interests include genetic changes in colorectal cancer and metastases, screening and early diagnosis of colorectal cancer, gene therapy for Pyoderma Gangrenosum and Familial Adenomatous Polyposis and the role of guidelines in controlling surgical practice. Ms Hargest is President of the Section of Surgery of the Royal Society of Medicine (2016/17). She is also Trustee and Treasurer of the Royal Society of Medicine, and Trustee of the Society of Academic Research Surgeons. In 2017 she won the Silver Scalpel Award for the best surgical trainer in the UK awarded by the Association of Surgeons in Training.*

Minimal Access surgery has a long history but in recent years has become increasingly used for resection of both benign and malignant colorectal disease. Improvements in optics, lighting, instrumentation and surgical technique have facilitated the widespread uptake of laparoscopic techniques. There are undoubtedly advantages for patients in avoiding the large scar typical of open surgery, including faster time to recovery, earlier discharge and return to work. Laparoscopic surgery is integral to many ERAS (Enhanced Recovery after Surgery) programmes. However, despite claims that laparoscopic surgery will reduce or even replace the need for open operations, there is evidence to show that even in units with appropriate equipment and expertise, there is a significant proportion of cases that cannot be completed (or even attempted) laparoscopically.

There will be a Buffet Supper **at 6.45pm**. The cost of the evening, to include the lecture and supper will be **£34 per person**. If you wish to attend the supper, please send your cheque to reach the Registrar at the above address by **THURSDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017** accompanied by the attached slip or pay by Bacs and email to inform us you have done so. **Please note that orders cannot be accepted for suppers after 12 noon on the Friday before a Monday meeting.**

*Professor Dafydd Thomas, MA MD FRCP  
Brigadier Ivan Houghton, MA MD BChir LLB LLM BSc  
Honorary Secretaries*

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To The Registrar, 11 Chandos Street, London, W1G 9EB

I wish to attend the Buffet Supper on **13<sup>th</sup> November 2017** and enclose my cheque payable to "The Medical Society of London" for..... (**£34 per person**) for myself and .....guest. BACS details Sort Code 20 36 88 Acct No 00756741 (Please put your name & date of supper as reference and email your intention to be present)

I wish to attend lecture only.....E.mail address:..... Daytime tel. no.....

Name (Capitals).....