



THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON
FOUNDED 1773

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Dear Fellow,

The next Society meeting of the 2025/26 session will be held on **Monday 23rd February 2026**, where Professor Sir Stephen Holgate CBE FMedSci will deliver his lecture on:

'AIR POLLUTION: THE SINGLE LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL RISK TO HEALTH'

After qualifying in medicine at Charing Cross, Stephen moved to Southampton in 1975 to help build the new Medical School there. He was awarded an MRC Research Professorship in 1987 which he used to research into the mechanisms and treatment of asthma and allied disorders with over 1,000 research publications. He is currently UK Research and Innovation Clean Air Champion and Special Advisor to the RCP on Air Quality. Stephen was appointed CBE in 2011 for contributions to Clinical Science and Knighted in 2020 for Medical Research.

According to the WHO, air pollution is the single largest environmental threat to human health, causing an estimated 7 million premature deaths annually worldwide with 99% of the global population breathing air exceeding safe limit guidelines, leading to diseases such as stroke, heart disease, asthma, pneumonia and COPD, lung cancer, and dementia. In the UK it is responsible for 30,000 premature deaths. On Clean Air Day, June 17th 2025, the RCP launched its air pollution report 'A Breath of Fresh Air' in response to the overwhelming evidence of wide-ranging damage to health. Key points included: importance of the systemic burden of pollutants affecting all human organs, effects on disease occur across a lifetime, indoor air as an under-recognised source of emissions, huge economic consequences from resulting poor health and the hidden role of inequalities/inequities in magnifying effects. The report sets out 19 recommendations aimed national, regional and local governments across the UK, industry, regulators, the NHS, clinicians, and individuals in society. Put simply, there is no safe level of air pollution, and increasingly ambitious action needs to be taken to improve air quality across the country to improve the health of our population. To achieve this, we need to work together towards a Public Health Campaign focussed on cleaner air for the benefit of all.

A Buffet Supper will precede the meeting at 6.45pm, and the meeting will start at 8pm. The cost of the evening, to include the lecture and supper will be £45 per person for Fellows and Guests. If you wish to attend the supper, please send your cheque to reach the Registrar at the above address by Thursday 19th February accompanied by the attached slip. Coffee and biscuits will be served after the lecture. Please note that we cannot usually accept orders for suppers after 12 noon on the Friday before a Monday meeting. However, if after Friday noon you decide you would like to attend, please telephone in advance to ascertain whether you can be accommodated for supper.

Yours faithfully,

Honorary Secretaries
Professor Heather Angus-Leppan MSc MD FRACP FRCP
Group Captain John Skipper LLB FRCS

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

I wish to attend the Buffet Supper on Monday 23rd February 2026 and enclose a cheque for myself andguest(s) at **£45 PER PERSON**. If you wish to pay by **BACS: Sort Code 20 36 88 Acc 00756741**. Please use your **surname and date of the meeting as a reference** and send an email to info@medsoclondon.org to confirm your booking.

I wish to attend the lecture only (no fee payable)

Name in CAPITAL letters please

Email address.....Dietary Requirements.....

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