



THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON
FOUNDED 1773

11 CHANDOS STREET
LONDON W1G 9EB

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Dear Fellow,

The next Society meeting of the 2025/26 session will be held on **Monday 23rd March 2026**, where Dr Nicholas Cambridge MD MRCS FRSPH FSA FLS FRHistS will deliver the Lettsom Lecture on:

'DOCTOR OF REVOLUTION: THE LIFE AND GENIUS OF DR ERASMUS DARWIN'

Nicholas became interested in medical history when he was a medical student at The Middlesex Hospital. In his final year he won the first history of medicine prize offered by the Royal Society of Medicine, History of Medicine Section. Several years later he became President of the History of Medicine Section. While still running a busy general practice he obtained his MD in medical history from The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL. He is Chair of Trustees of the Erasmus Darwin Foundation, Trustee of the Fitzrovia Chapel Foundation and Chair of the Charles Bell Group to preserve the legacy of The Middlesex Hospital. He is a past president of the Hunterian Society. In 2017 Nicholas was the Dr T J (Jock) Murray Visiting Scholar in Medical Humanities, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. In 2022 his book on Charles Dickens was published - Bleak Health: The medical history of Charles Dickens and his family.

It has been said of Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802) that no one from his day to ours has ever rivalled him in his achievements in such a wide range of fields. He was a far-sighted scientific genius, fertile in theory and invention, and one of the foremost physicians of his time. His gift for friendship enabled him to recruit the members of the Lunar Society of Birmingham which is often seen as the main intellectual powerhouse of the Industrial Revolution in England. Towards the end of his life he gained recognition as the leading English poet in the country.

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 March accompanied by the attached slip. Coffee 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

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

I wish to attend the Buffet Supper on Monday 23rd March 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.....

MSL