

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE CONFERENCE



St John's
CHAMBERS

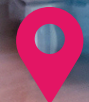
**24 hours in A&E: Claims in the
emergency department**



Wednesday, 6th November 2024



9.10am - 4.20pm



St George's Hall, Great George Street, BS1 5RR

**CPD / APIL
accredited:
5 hours**

Our **Clinical Negligence** team invite you to join us for this year's annual conference, focused on the theme of **24 hours in A&E: Claims in the emergency department**.

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The conference, kindly sponsored by **Blume**, will feature talks and panel discussions from our specialist Clinical Negligence barristers at St John's Chambers, as well as from **expert clinicians** in **emergency medicine** and **spinal surgery**. There will be insights on recent and upcoming developments in Emergency Care, including case law, quantum updates and consideration of Martha's Law, discussion of cauda equina syndrome, a look at duty of care in the emergency department, and practical tips on expert evidence.

This one-day conference is designed for claimant and defendant clinical negligence lawyers of all seniority, and will be focusing on claims arising from care in the Emergency Department.

Raffle proceeds go to

In aid of



**GREAT
WESTERN**
Air Ambulance Charity

Drinks sponsored by

PIC

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Programme

9.10 – 9.40am	Registration and refreshments
9.40 – 10.00am	<p>Welcome and sponsor comments from Blume</p> <p>Justin Valentine, Head of Clinical Negligence team, Barrister Andrew Chadwick, Head of Business Development, Blume and Partner, Fletchers Group</p>
10.00 – 10.40am	<p>Emergency Department assessment of patients with head injuries Professor Alan Fletcher, Medical Examiner & Consultant in Acute and Emergency Medicine</p> <p>Professor Fletcher will describe the emergency medicine approach to the assessment and investigation of head injured patients. He will discuss NICE guidance, anticoagulation, and indications for imaging. He will refer to the case of <i>Dr Sido John v Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</i> [2016] EWHC 407 (QB) in which he was instructed for the Claimant.</p>
10.40 – 11.10am	<p>Duty of care in the emergency room Rachel Segal and Rhodri Jones, Barristers</p> <p>Rachel and Rhodri will discuss the scope of the duty of care in the emergency room, including issues arising in relation to consent and the ramifications of Martha's law.</p>
11.10 – 11.30am	Break & Refreshments
11.30 – 12.15am	<p>Cauda equina syndrome – GIRFT Pathway and legal perspective Mike Hutton, Consultant spine surgeon and clinical lead for the NHS England programme Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) Justin Valentine, Head of Clinical Negligence team</p> <p>Cauda Equina Syndrome ("CES") is a serious neurological condition which can lead to lower limb paralysis and loss of bowel, bladder and sexual function if not assessed and treated urgently. Mike is Chair of the National Suspected CES pathway produced by Getting it Right First Time ("GIRFT"). The pathway aims to support clinicians in effectively diagnosing and treating CES without delay. Justin will join him to discuss repercussions in the medico-legal context and issues that generally arise in CES claims.</p>
12.15 – 12.45pm	<p>Expert Evidence: getting it right and common pitfalls James Hughes and Lauren Karmel, Barristers</p> <p>James and Lauren will address issues in and around obtaining the correct expert evidence for claims arising out of care in the Emergency Room.</p>

Programme

12.45 - 1.45pm	Lunch
1.45 - 2.25pm	Sepsis in the emergency department Mr Victor Ameh, Consultant in Accident & Emergency Medicine Mr Ameh will touch on the early recognition, diagnostic challenges and pitfalls, investigation, and management of sepsis. He will also discuss complications arising from the failure to recognise and treat sepsis in a timely manner.
2.25 - 2.45pm	The shelf life of a case manager Pippa Bird, Registered General Nurse, Clinical Director & Senior Case Manager, Circle Case Management
2.45 - 3.05pm	Break & Refreshments
3.05 - 3.45pm	Clinical Negligence update Beatrice Baskett and Sophie Howard, Barristers Beatrice and Sophie will review recent case law and discuss the latest understanding of key issues in clinical negligence cases.
3.45 - 4.20pm	Panel Discussion: ADR in clinical negligence litigation: Does it work and what is the best approach? Our panel of barristers, James Marwick, Jimmy Barber, Justin Valentine and Louise Asprey, will discuss the different approaches to ADR, including the advantages/disadvantages of joint settlement meetings versus mediations, the Welsh Redress Scheme, when to engage in ADR, how to deal with costs/damages global offers and how best to achieve a satisfactory outcome. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions and to share their own experiences.
4.20pm	Drinks Reception and Raffle hosted by our Sponsors

Experts



Mr. Victor Ameh
MBBS, MA(Law&Ethics),
FRCSEd, FRCCEM, FEWI, MCMJ
Consultant in Emergency
Medicine

Mr Victor Ameh is a consultant in Emergency Medicine (A&E) at the Royal Albert Edward infirmary in Wigan, Greater Manchester, a large teaching hospital and a Trauma unit. He is a senior consultant in full time clinical practice. He has undertaken postgraduate specialist training in Emergency Medicine and General Surgery in the United Kingdom. He completed his higher specialist training in Emergency Medicine which led to the award of the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) in Emergency Medicine. He is a Fellow of both the Royal College of Emergency Medicine and the Royal College of surgeons of Edinburgh. He holds a Masters degree in Medical Law and Ethics from the University of Keele. He is an honorary senior lecturer with both the University of Manchester, faculty of health sciences as well as the University of Edge Hill Medical School. He is the Lead for Specialist Training and Royal College tutor at his current Trust. His external roles include being a senior examiner with the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, the University of Manchester Medical School, a General Medical Council Associate and Expert Witness in Emergency Medicine. He is a Fellow of the Faculty of Expert Witnesses for Doctors, and of the Expert Witness institute. He is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Management. He is actively involved in teaching, education and research. He has numerous publications which are available on request. He has over 10 years' experience of medico-legal report writing and assisting the courts, including coroner's courts and tribunals. He has assisted solicitors, barristers and professional organisations in the preparations of high-quality standard and clinical negligence reports. His special interests are in major trauma, resuscitation, acute and critical illnesses and medico-legal matters including clinical negligence.



Mike Hutton
Consultant spine surgeon
and clinical lead for the
NHS England programme
Getting It Right First Time
(GIRFT)

Mike is a Consultant Spine Surgeon and the GIRFT National Lead for Spinal Services. He previously worked as a spine surgeon at The Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital from 2007 to 2021 undertaking complex spine procedures in all areas of spinal surgery including paediatric and adult spine deformity. Mike held an executive position on the British Association of Spine Surgeons from 2009 to 2019 and led the British Spine Registry from 2012 to 2019. He was an expert advisor to the MHRA from 2012 to 2021. He has developed a National Emergency Referral Tool which links to the British Spinal Registry and is currently the co-chair of the Spinal Orthopaedic Data Evaluation Panel and Beyond Compliance programme. Mike is the chair of the National Suspected Cauda Equina Pathway improvement programme and an affiliate member of the NHSE Spinal Service Clinical Reference Group. He is also the clinical lead for the spinal National Consultant Information Programme (NCIP) and he developed the Spinal Services dashboard on 'The Model Hospital'. Mike chaired and developed the Spinal High Volume/Low Complexity (HVLC) pathway programme. His GIRFT national report on Spinal Services was published in January 2019. He has subsequently visited and reported on the spinal independent sector and is a co-author of the 'Learning from Litigation claims' national report in May 2021. Mike is a former professional rugby player and still follows the sport with a passion.

Experts



Pippa Bird

Clinical Director & Senior
Case Manager, Circle Case
Management)

Pippa is a founding Director of Circle Case Management and is instrumental in creating and delivering Circle's ethos for quality, clinical excellence and respect for clients and colleagues. As Clinical Director, Pippa focuses on service development and improvements and ensures her teams deliver the best possible service to their clients. A Care Quality Commission Registered Manager, Director and Board Member, she contributes to the regulation and inspection of health and social care services in England. With an outstanding reputation as a senior nursing specialist for Neurosciences, Pippa is a well-regarded expert in managing people with gross behavioural difficulties resulting from acquired brain or spinal injuries. Clients trust her with the most challenging and complex cases and the medico-legal community as an Expert Witness who provides reports for CHC and appeals to NHS England Panels, Care and Loss of Service.



Professor Alan Fletcher

Professor Alan Fletcher
(Medical Examiner &
Consultant in Acute and
Emergency Medicine)

Alan is a practising Consultant in Emergency Medicine and General Internal Medicine at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals since 2004. His qualifications are: B Med Sci (hons), MB ChB, Hon DHC, FRCP (Edin), FRCP (Lond), FRCM, RCPATHME and SFFMLM. He was Clinical Lead for Acute Medicine from 2004-2013 and was Clinical Lecturer in Medicine and Endocrinology. He has published numerous scientific papers and has authored and edited several chapters and textbooks. He has undertaken medico legal work in emergency medicine, general medicine and life expectancy for 20 years. He is instructed by claimants and defendants, and by senior coroners. He has provided over 2,500 reports. He is also the National Medical Examiner for England and Wales, appointed in March 2019. Alan was Lead Medical Examiner in Sheffield until this appointment and has personally reviewed over 21,000 deaths. He has responsibility for the training of prospective medical examiners as National Clinical Lead for e-learning. He was Chair of the Royal College of Pathologists Medical Examiners Committee from 2015-2019. Alan was appointed Visiting Professor at the Centre for Contemporary Coronal Law at the University of Bolton in 2023 and was awarded a Doctorate for Services to Healthcare.

Barristers

“One of the ‘go-to’ clinical negligence sets on the Western Circuit and beyond.”

The Legal 500, 2024

With 16 barristers, we are the leading **Clinical Negligence** set in the South West with an enviable reputation for the breadth of expertise within this specialist team.



Justin Valentine
Head of Clinical
Negligence

Year of call: 1999

“Justin is forensic in his approach, and has an eye for detail. He is also tactically very strong, and maintains one eye on the big picture. Overall, Justin is very easy to work with as he aims to get the best outcome through working as a team.” The Legal 500, 2024

Justin has been ranked as a Tier 1 Legal 500 clinical negligence specialist for several years. He acts almost exclusively for claimants in cases of significant value. He specialises in cauda equina syndrome cases and is credited as a contributor to the GIRFT National Suspected Cauda Equina Syndrome Pathway. Justin has particular interest in obstetrics and gynaecology cases where consent issues are often present. He has extensive experience of a range of clinical negligence cases including sepsis, necrotising fasciitis, delayed diagnosis of cancer and diabetes cases and is instructed by many of the leading firms in clinical negligence.



Louise Asprey
Deputy Head of
Clinical Negligence

Year of call: 2007

Louise is the Deputy Head of the Clinical Negligence team and has extensive experience of acting for both individuals and health providers in clinical negligence claims involving a wide variety of injury and allegations of breach. Louise has particular experience of representing interested persons at lengthy inquests and then seeing the matter through to the conclusion of the civil claim, using the information gleaned from the inquest itself, to inform the progression of those claims.

Barristers

“Jimmy is wise beyond his years and call and is exceptionally detailed and thorough in the advice that he gives. He very quickly sees the issues in a case and his advocacy skills are second to none.” The Legal 500, 2024



Jimmy Barber

Year of call: 2008

Jimmy has experience of a wide array of areas of medicine and dentistry and acts for claimants, clinicians and healthcare providers. He has advised on cases involving delays in diagnosis, injuries caused by or during surgery, failure to obtain proper consent, inadequate nursing care and medication errors. He has significant experience in cases involving the failure to diagnose and treat emergency conditions such as oesophageal perforation, acute angle closure glaucoma, ischaemic priapism, appendicitis and intra-abdominal sepsis; and he has advised on high value claims involving delays in carrying out thoracic decompressive laminectomy leading to neurological compromise, and the failure to treat serious infection in the foot leading to an above knee amputation. He is also very knowledgeable in claims under the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 and the LRMPA 1934 following medical errors.

“James is very approachable, thorough, responsive, and excellent when drafting and giving advice.” The Legal 500, 2024



James Marwick

Year of call: 2008

James is ranked as a leading junior in clinical negligence by The Legal 500. He acts for both claimants and defendants in a wide range of clinical negligence matters but with a particular specialism in cauda equina and spinal surgery cases, and those arising out of negligent obstetric & gynaecological care. James has significant trial experience and is well versed in the cross examination of medical experts. He is often instructed where there are complex medical issues on causation including the delayed diagnosis of cancer and delay in the delivery room. His work will often include acting as sole junior for claimants and defendants where there have been life changing consequences as a result of medical treatment. James is particularly strong on quantum including the presentation of career and life time losses, including pension losses and care/OT claims.

“James is extremely personable and communicates well with those instructing and clients alike. He has good technical knowledge and his advocacy and courtroom presence are impressive.” The Legal 500, 2024



James Hughes

Year of call: 2011

James is a specialist clinical negligence practitioner. He acts for both claimants and defendant trusts and clinicians, and is regularly in cases where there is more than one defendant. Recent work includes:

- Injury to external iliac artery during laparoscopic sterilisation surgery.
- Wrongful or late cancer diagnosis (including, most recently, brain tumours in an adolescent claimant and oesophageal cancers in adult claimants).
- Negligent prescription of opioid analgesics.
- Missed cholesteatoma diagnosis.
- Colorectal and gastrointestinal sepsis.

Barristers

“Rachel is extremely good with clients and her advocacy is excellent. She is also incredibly strong on anything related to relief from sanctions.” The Legal 500, 2024



Rachel Segal

Year of call: 2013

Rachel is recognised as a leading junior in Clinical Negligence (The Legal 500). She enjoys working across the spectrum of medical law for both claimants and defendants and is particularly sought after for cases involving delayed diagnosis and treatment of cancers (primary and metastatic disease), colorectal and gastrointestinal surgery and obstetrics/gynaecology. She has a special interest in breast cancer cases. Recent instructions include cases (for claimants and defendants) in the fields of:

- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- General/GI surgery
- General Practice
- Geriatrics
- Cosmetic Procedures
- Dentistry
- Obstetrics/midwifery



Sophie Howard

Year of call: 2016

Sophie accepts instructions for claimants and defendants in clinical negligence work. Sophie drafts pleadings and advises on quantum in all areas of medicine including dental negligence, delayed diagnosis of cancer and alleged negligence in cardiac surgery. Sophie has an interest in inquest work and accepts instructions to represent interested persons at inquests and pre-inquest review hearings. Sophie is developing her practice in professional regulation in a medical setting. She also has an interest in professional negligence cases brought against legal professionals in the personal injury context.



Rhodri Jones

Year of call: 2017

Rhodri specialises in clinical negligence, acting for both claimants and defendants. Before retraining as a barrister, Rhodri practised as a medical doctor for 18 years, principally in A&E and general practice. His wealth of knowledge and clinical experience enables him to quickly grasp the relevant issues in all aspects of medical law. Recent experience includes advising and drafting statements of case in relation to claims in general practice, anaesthetics, cardiology, endocrinology, oncology, obstetrics, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, general surgery, and dentistry. He is regularly instructed to draft schedules and counter schedules.

Rhodri is the author of *“A Practical Guide to Material Contribution in Clinical Negligence”* published by Law Brief Publishing in September 2023.

Barristers / Sponsor

“Lauren is always prepared to go the extra mile.”

The Legal 500, 2024



Lauren Karmel

Year of call: 2017

Lauren is ranked as a leading junior (Tier 2) in The Legal 500 2024 guide. She accepts instructions in all areas of clinical negligence and inquest work, and is developing a strong paper-based practice in all areas of medicine, including dental, oncology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, obstetrics and emergency medicine. Lauren is frequently instructed to draft pleadings in clinical negligence cases involving complex issues of causation, as well as written advices on procedural issues and quantum. She is happy to consider instructions on a CFA. Lauren has a particular interest in inquest work and is frequently instructed to represent families and other interested parties on a regular basis. Lauren provides regular training to firms of solicitors on the engagement of Article 2 in the context of healthcare inquests. Lauren has a sub-specialism in professional regulation, and is frequently instructed by the Nursing and Midwifery Council to deal with fitness to practise matters.



Beatrice Baskett

Year of call: 2021

Beatrice is a barrister specialising in clinical negligence and inquests. Beatrice is instructed in a broad range of cases, including orthopaedic, delayed diagnosis, dental treatment and fatal accident claims. Her clinical negligence work is complemented by her expanding inquest practice, where she frequently provides representation in civil claims brought following the conclusion of the inquest. She is the Legal Secretary for the Bristol Medico-Legal Society, and enjoys organising the society talks and meeting professionals based in Bristol. Prior to joining Chambers, Beatrice worked at a leading law firm as a Paralegal in the Clinical Negligence team, where she worked closely with the birth injury and fatal claims teams.



Andrew Chadwick

Partner, Fletchers Group
Head of Business
Development, Blume

As Head of Business Development at Blume, Andrew is responsible for identifying, building and maintaining successful strategic partnerships with law firms with the aim of growing the volume of panel members for the business.

With over 20 years working in the legal sector, including 13 years heading up the cost department at Fletchers where he was elected as a partner in 2023, Andrew's experience is well-suited to help lawyers and legal operations solve their business growth challenges, assist with strategic planning and help boost revenue.

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EXHIBITORS

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