

The decline of autopsy and its implications for critically ill patients

Friday 6th March 2015

Chair: Mike Osborn, Imperial College, London & RCPATH

Co-Chair: John Martin, Chairman, European Critical Care Foundation

09:00-09:30 Registrations

09:30-09:40 *Welcome and opening remarks*

Peter Furness, Council Member, Nuffield Council on Bioethics

09:40-09:50 *Introduction, background and objectives of the meeting*

John Martin, Chairman, European Critical Care Foundation

09:50- 10:00 *Post mortems – still needed?*

Sebastian Lucas, Emeritus Professor of Pathology, St Thomas' Hospital, London

10:00-10:05 Discussion

10:05-10:25 *Post mortems – a historical perspective*

Julian Burton, Senior Teaching Fellow, Sheffield University Medical School

10:25-10:40 Discussion

10:40 – 10:55 Coffee

10:55-11:30 *Post mortem rates in UK and Europe – latest figures*

Angus Turnbull, Medical Student (5th year), Imperial College London

11:30-11:45 Discussion

11:45-12:00 *Infant death and the declining rates of consent for autopsy, a sociological perspective*

Kate Reed & Julie Ellis, Sociology Department, Sheffield University

12:00-12:15 Discussion

12:15-12:30 *Autopsy decline, critical care, consent and religion - overview of the perceived, actual and potential influence of spirituality and culture*

Geoff Morgan, Multi-faith Chaplaincy & Research Group, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust Chaplaincy, London

12:30-12:45 Discussion

12:45-13:30 Lunch

- 13:30-13:45** *Post mortems – social and cultural perspectives*
Elizabeth Hallam, Research Associate, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography,
University of Oxford
- 13:45-14:00** **Discussion**
- 14:00-14:15** *Non-consented post mortems – now & the future*
Fiona Wilcox, HM Senior Coroner for Inner West London
- 14:15-14:30** **Discussion**
- 14:30-15:00** *Minimally Invasive Post Mortems – their role in ITU*
Dominic Wichmann, University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf, Department of
Intensive Care Medicine
- Uncertainties inherent in day to day critical care – whole body syndromes versus
discrete diseases*
Daniel Nethercott, Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine, Royal Bolton
Hospital
- 15:00-15:15** **Discussion**
- 15:15-15:45** *Post mortems – perspectives from Europe*
Ilmo Leivo, Secretary General of the European Society of Pathology
- 15:45-16:00** **Discussion**
- 16:00-16:05** *Short break, tea and coffee available*
- 16:05-16:50** *Discussion, conclusions and next steps*
Michael Osborn & John Martin, meeting Co-Chairs
- 16:50-17:00** *Wrap-up*
Peter Furness, Council Member, Nuffield Council on Bioethics