

# NORWICH MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY

Web site [www.norwichmedchi.org.uk](http://www.norwichmedchi.org.uk)

## EVENING MEETING REMINDER

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Supper 6.15 pm

Meeting 7.00pm

**Dr Terry Gibson**

**Consultant Physician Guys & St Thomas' Hospital London**

**Dr Terence Gibson** was a consultant physician and rheumatologist at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust for 38 years before joining the King's Sierra Leone Partnership as a volunteer consultant physician in 2014. He is now an acute medicine physician at GSTT

"In June 2014 Ebola struck Freetown. What began as a few cases soon grew into an overwhelming surge. One day in August, one of my three consultant physician colleagues failed to show up for his duties. I attended to him at home but he died of Ebola some days later. Disturbingly, I knew how he had contracted the disease. We had both wrestled with the same patient in an effort to take blood. This was just one of the many close calls for me working in the medical assessment unit and on the medical wards where we were often unknowingly exposed to patients with the disease.

Several other doctors and nurses at Connaught died of the Ebola virus, causing widespread panic among hospital staff. House officers went on strike and some other remaining colleagues stopped visiting the wards. KSLP reacted quickly; for a while, Connaught was one of the only hospitals to have isolation units for suspected Ebola cases. Volunteers were recruited from the UK and elsewhere to help fight the epidemic. It was inspiring to see so many young doctors and nurses suspending their careers and putting their lives at risk.

My own role shifted to maintaining a medical service for patients without Ebola, keeping open a medical observation unit and four medical wards. For a two month period I was the only doctor attending those patients who had been admitted for reasons other than Ebola. However, despite triage and later a screening process, Ebola patients were inadvertently admitted to the observation and ward areas I was looking after. Discovering that a patient I had been treating without full protection was Ebola positive resulted in sleepless nights, but the experience soon became so regular that I stopped being anxious.

On 7 November 2015 Sierra Leone reached 42 days without a case of Ebola virus disease and was declared "Ebola free." There remain problems of under resourcing, lack of doctor training, the absence of specialists, and a diminished number of doctors because of Ebola deaths and desertions.

**"Journey without maps, Sierra Leone 2014-16" [Experiences of front line medicine during the Ebola outbreak]**

to be held in

**The Gooch Lecture Theatre, NANIME, Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital**

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Reply slip for evening meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Name.....

I will/will not be attending the light supper at 6.15pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Please enclose a cheque (payable to Norwich Med-Chi Society) for £10 per person for supper. If you just wish to attend the lecture this is free.

I will be bringing.....guest(s)

Please return completed slip to Doreen Brookes, Department of Radiology, Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7UY. Telephone No. (01603) 286101. Replies must be received by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.