



Professor Charles Vincent

Surgical teams and patient safety



Charles Vincent trained as a Clinical Psychologist. He established the Clinical Risk Unit at University College London in 1995 where he was Professor of Psychology before moving to Imperial College in 2002. He now directs the Clinical Safety Research

Unit in the Department of Biosurgery and Technology, Imperial College London, and is Director of the NIHR Centre for Patient Safety & Service Quality (CPSSQ) at Imperial College Healthcare Trust.

When work on surgery began at Imperial in 2002, safety, team work and human factors were little discussed in the surgical literature. There was pioneering work on human factors and crisis training in anaesthesia and some impressive work on surgical skills, but very little had been written on the nature of error and systems, teamwork, decision making, the working environment, culture and other staples of the safety world. The literature did not reflect the daily experience of clinicians however. Stories of the operating theatre revolved around a litany of safety issues - difficult decisions, equipment problems, teams that failed to gel, the difficulty of bringing a team together during a crisis, and the way the wider hospital impacted on the operating theatre.

This seminar will focus on the considerable progress that has since been made in broadening the scope of research on the factors that create safety in the operating theatre and beyond. CPSSQ studies show a sophistication in the development of measures (there is due attention to methodology and technical issues, but also recognition of the subtleties of teamwork and communication), and real progress in developing interventions to enhance teamwork in the operating theatre and beyond. These interventions include briefings, checklists, team training, simulation and the formalisation of handover and ward care.

The studies have unveiled wider influences on teamwork in the operating theatre and the need to address these issues if theatre teams are to reach their full potential - staffing levels, organisational constraints and trade-offs, failure to train in teams, inter-professional rivalries, and the difficulties of engaging staff in safety procedures. In this sense the operating theatre, and the mirror these studies hold to it, is a microcosm of the healthcare system.

Date: Wednesday 24 March 2010

Time: 17.30 followed by drinks at 18.45

Place: Room G73, Kings College London, Franklin-Wilkins Building, 150 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH

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RSVP

To secure a place booking is required – please reply to kingspssq@kcl.ac.uk 020 7848 7152

This is the eleventh seminar of the King's PSSQ forum. For more information about the Centre please go to www.kingspssq.org.uk

King's PSSQ Forum – all welcome