



**THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON  
REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2025**

**President:**  
PROFESSOR PHILIP IND MA MA Bchir FRCP

**President Elect:**  
DR DAVID MUMMERY MB ChB MRCGP

### **Introduction By The President**

2025 has been an eventful year but turbulence world-wide has not been reflected in the Society. We have had a spectrum of stimulating speakers and lecture topics, with a smattering of the political, engendering questions and debate.

The annual June pilgrimage to Folkestone, to process to the William Harvey statue for the Sunday thanksgiving ceremony, was enlivened by an ongoing Music Festival on the Leas. Walking to tea at the Town Hall with the Lady Mayoress, local dignitaries and guests was illuminated by stopping to say a prayer at Harvey's birthplace.

The Society's Annual Buckston Browne - Gray Hill Dinner was held at the Savil Club, the Guest of Honour was Professor Sir Peter Barnes FRC. Attendance at the Christmas party, this year a Dinner held in the Long Room at the Oval cricket ground, was a little disappointing. However, a convivial evening was enjoyed as a joint function with the President and guests from the Hunterian Society, and it was hoped that this might represent a precedent for future joint functions. Flyers announcing the Society's programme of speakers with titles of their talks were circulated to the Hunterian Society to encourage their members to attend as occasional guests. It was a personal pleasure to induct Dr David Mummery as President of the Society for 2026.

It was with regret and sadness that the death of Professor Charles Polkey a long-term, distinguished member of the Society was announced in January. A Memorial service for Dr Christopher Treves Brown, a previous Councillor, was held in March 2025. My thanks go to all members who attended meetings, to Councillors for their support, as always to our Executive secretary for all his help, to our secretary Leah for her organisational skills, to Celia our excellent caterer and her staff, and of course to Leon who welcomes everyone.

PROFESSOR PHILIP IND MA MA Bchir FRCP

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Harveian Society**  
**Held on January 15th 2025**

The President, Mr Robert Maurice-Williams, welcomed members and guests and reminded them that this was a private meeting. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were read and approved by the Secretary. On completion the President thanked Professor Ind for carrying out the duties for the year and the Councillors for their support.

The retiring President, Mr Robert Maurice Williams inducted Professor Philip Ind as President for the 2025 session.

The new President Professor Philip Ind thanked the retiring President for his time in office and presented him with a badge of office. The new Secretary was also introduced.

The President nominated Dr Keith Daykin-White for membership, nominated by Dr Gerrard Burnett

There being no objections received, the President also invited Dr Isabell Lentell to sign the Members Book and introduce herself as a new member.

The President announced that the next meeting at Lettsom House would be the Harveian Lecture on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 which would be delivered by Professor Peter Openshaw on

**GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRUCTURES DURING COVID AND THE ENQUIRY**

The President then introduced Professor Jane Apperley, Professor of Haemato-Oncology at Imperial College, London and called upon her to present her lecture on

**CML AND ME – MY CAREER AND THE BEST CANCER STORY TO DATE**

Professor Apperley, in a fascinating lecture, gave a very personal account of the history of the development of treatments for CML intertwining her own personal background history and career progression and discussion about being a woman at the forefront of groundbreaking academic and clinical research in haematology and more specifically CML research throughout the previous few decades.

Professor Apperley was brought up in the Wirral, by the sea the youngest of 5 girls where her father had a motor business and the prevailing atmosphere at the time were more local and non-ambitious aspirations, but that as she went to a girl's school and only had sisters, she had no particular awareness at the time that men possibly had more career advantages than women.

She qualified in Medicine from the University of Birmingham in 1979, which although was not a major academic centre at the time, was superb for clinical experience in a very ethnically and demographically diverse area of the UK with brilliant clinicians, where she felt

she had an excellent clinical grounding in medicine, which stood her in good stead for the rest of her career.

Professor Apperley then outlined the history of CML research and treatments which she was at the forefront of developing and pioneering during her training which took her for periods of time to Cambridge, Boston and London.

She in superb clinical detail outlined the developments in CML research which has transformed the prognosis and survival for patients diagnosed with CML over the last 30 years, when in the mid-1990s, those diagnosed with CML could only expect to live a few years, today the outlook could not be more different, with a newly diagnosed patient having a 95 % chance of being restored to the life expectancy they would have had if they had never had leukaemia. Professor Apperley noted that the approach to the disease has completely changed and that this was one of the major success stories in cancer with now highly effective treatments and monitoring.

The main treatments that she was involved in pioneering at the Hammersmith Hospital are the tyrosine kinase inhibitors. One of these drugs – imatinib – would go on to transform the treatment of CML. With this tablet, hundreds of patients no longer required exhausting chemotherapy and transplant procedures. The Hammersmith Hospital became the leading CML centre in the whole of Europe and played a key role in treatment development, was involved in the initial trials and invented the molecular PCR test that assess how patients respond to the medication.

Professor Apperley also outlined a longstanding interest in the impact of haematological diseases on fertility, pregnancy and foetal outcomes.

At the end of her talk, she discussed about comparisons regarding female academic leaders in different countries across the world and emphasised the huge support that her family had given her throughout her career.

Questions after the talk included : a question from Dr Lentell, with a discussion and a more detailed conversation about women trying for a family on treatment and whether to stop treatment ; a question from Professor Ind about the best statistics regarding treatment compliance data and Professor Hughes who congratulated Professor Apperley on a brilliant talk which was a fusion of the personal and scientific and re-emphasised the importance of the basic sciences and the scientific approach to help conquer disease such as CML, of which CML treatment has been an amazing example.

39 Members and Guests Attended

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Harveian Society**  
**Held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

The President, Professor Philip Ind, welcomed members and guests and reminded them that this was a private meeting. The President announced the recent death of Dr Sally Gordon-Boyd after a long illness – a past president of the Society in 2012. Members were asked to stand for a moment's silence in her memory.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were read and approved by the Secretary.

There were no nominations to Membership.

The President announced that, no objections being received, Dr Keith Daykin-White was elected to membership.

The President invited Dr Chris Meadows to sign the Membership book and introduce himself.

The President announced that the next meeting at Lettsom House would be on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 which would be a lecture delivered by Professor Dame Carol Black on

**COMBATING DRUG MISUSE**

The President then introduced Professor Peter Openshaw, Professor of Experimental Medicine at Imperial College, London and called upon him to present his lecture on

**GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRUCTURES DURING COVID AND THE INQUIRY**

Professor Openshaw, in a fascinating lecture, gave an overview of his background in respiratory medicine, with a specific research interest in mucosal immunology and how the immune response both protects against viral infection, but also causes disease. He noted that during his career has had done a lot of media work, including a memorable interview on the Big Breakfast, and that he had appeared over 100 times on national TV and radio between March 2021 and March 2022, explaining some of the complexities relating to the Covid -19 pandemic response.

Professor Openshaw had an integral role in many of the agencies intimately involved in the Covid-19 pandemic including SAGE, Nervtag and the Academy of Medical Sciences. He is also Director of the HIC – Vac consortium, promoting the use of human challenge to accelerate vaccinology.

Professor Openshaw gave a superb and detailed account of the Covid-19 pandemic response in the UK and globally, specifically discussing the roles of the different agencies and advisory networks, the modelling of the pandemic, comparisons with previous pandemics such as Swine Flu and Influenza, and also working with the politicians who were in charge of the UK response. He noted that 15.8% of the 650 UK MPs had science backgrounds, with the majority having backgrounds in law and politics. He also noted that 'advisers advise and that MPs and ministers decide.'

Professor Openshaw outlined the development of vaccines and referenced the different views regarding the pandemic such as those outlined in the ‘Great Barrington Declaration’.

Questions at the end of the lecture included questions about the pandemic response in Sweden, misinformation regarding the pandemic, what could have been done differently and the indirect consequences of the lockdown such as the closing of schools.

When Professor Openshaw was asked would the UK deal with a future pandemic better, his answer was no.

Professor Openshaw has noted that our ability to respond to pandemics depends on long-term investment in public health and spare capacity in healthcare. Public trust and good collaborative relationships between scientists, officials and political leaders is vital. An effective response critically depends on having reliable and robust systems in place to monitor the arrival and spread of infection. Much of this was in place before and during the last two pandemics but cannot be taken for granted.

32 Members and Guests attended

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Harveian Society**  
**Held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

The President, Professor Philip Ind, welcomed members and guests and reminded them that this was a private meeting.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were read and approved by the Secretary.

There was one nomination to Membership – Dr Marc Duffield.

The President invited Dr Nicholas Barrett to sign the Membership book and introduce himself.

The President announced that the next meeting at Lettsom House would be on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 which would be a lecture delivered by Dr John Launer on:

**SHOULD WE STOP TAKING HISTORIES AND LISTEN TO STORIES INSTEAD?**

The President then introduced Professor Dame Carol Black and invited her to deliver her lecture on:

**COMBATING DRUG MISUSE**

Professor Dame Carol has had a long, varied and extremely distinguished career at the top of the medical profession which includes: academic and clinical practice as a Rheumatologist, President of the Royal College of Physicians, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, past Chair of the Nuffield Trust for Health Policy, a member of RAND Europe’s Council of Advisers and the Commonwealth Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Ageing Well. She has also had numerous other important roles such as Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, where she was a Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Dame Carol has completed four independent reviews for the UK Government, and currently she is Government's independent adviser on drug misuse, a role for which her huge experience in clinical medicine, academia and policy is invaluable.

In a fascinating lecture, Dame Carol outlined her work for the UK Government over the last five years on drug misuse, which included the creation of a new ten-year national drug strategy which secured an unprecedented £750 million funding to develop and implement her recommendations. She described in detail the worsening outcomes and increasing scale of harm for those affected, and how the quality and capacity of drug treatment services has significantly reduced in recent years, and this has also been made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dame Carol noted that mental health problems and trauma lie at the heart of drug dependency, and that there remains a significant degree of stigma and inaction within the medical profession. Dame Carol cogently argued that drug dependency should be viewed as a relapsing and remitting chronic health condition and should be treated as such.

Dame Carol is convinced that work and meaningful activity for those affected are essential elements in recovery, and with the new strategy the aim and ambition is to reduce overall drug use to a 30 year low by 2031; money needs to be ring-fenced to achieve this, and that there needs to be a sustained focus on delivery of outcomes for citizens and communities. The work has now been extended to prisons which poses new challenges.

There were questions for Dame Carol which were regarding: comparisons with other countries, such as Portugal, the chronic disease model, prevention in schools and vaping.  
37 Members and Guests attended

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Harveian Society**  
**Held on April 9th 2025**

The President, Professor Philip Ind, welcomed members and guests and reminded them that this was a private meeting. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were read and approved by the Secretary.

There was one nomination to membership: Professor Jim Ritter – proposed by The President and Professor Mike Hughes.

There having been no objections received; Dr Marc Duffield was elected to Membership.

The President invited Dr Keith Daykin-White to sign the Members Book and introduce himself.

The President reminded Members about the Annual Buckston Brown/Gray Hill Dinner which will be held in the Savile Club on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The Guest of Honour will be Professor Sir Peter Barnes.

The President announced that the next meeting would be on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 when John Warren will deliver his lecture on:

## **THE ADVERSE RISK/BENEFIT OF ANTIDEPRESSANTS**

The President then introduced Dr John Launer and invited him to deliver his lecture on:

### **SHOULD WE STOP TAKING HISTORIES AND LISTEN TO STORIES INSTEAD?**

Dr John Launer is a doctor, educator, and writer. He is a graduate in English and practiced as a GP for 30 years in Edmonton in North London. He has also been a part-time consultant at the Tavistock Clinic in London, and currently he is an Honorary Associate Clinical Professor at UCL Medical School and Lead Programme Director in Educational Innovation for NHS England.

Dr Launer has written 11 books, including “Narrative -Based Practice in Health and Social Care” and writes a regular column for the British Medical Journal.

In a fascinating and wide-ranging lecture, Dr Launer speculated that in medicine, where historically we have taught medical students that systematic history-taking lies at the centre of good medical practice, and only placing secondary emphasis on “listening to the patient’s story,” we may have got this the wrong way round.

Dr Launer outlined the historical context and how this field coalesced at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the first of which was a collection of essays entitled: Narrative- Based Medicine: Dialogue and Discourse in Clinical Practice edited by Greenhalgh and Hurwitz.

Dr Launer argued, with superb examples, that this conventional approach devalues patients’ experience of illness limits trust by placing the doctor’s view of the world first, and that it may even impede the disclosure of important medical information. Dr Launer outlined the history of the development of “narrative-based medicine” and noted that: ‘stories always have a context and a purpose and that stories are the way we learn and change.’ Dr Launer noted that the ‘narrative turn’ has changed many fields of learning, and that stories are often the way we understand the world and how we make sense of the world, and can be empowering to use.

Dr Launer gave an overview of current changes in this field, including the ‘Conversations Inviting Change’ narrative medicine training programme, which has a mixture of theoretical input and peer supervision, and showed a video example of how such an approach can be used in a consultation.

Questions at the end of the lecture included about how this narrative-based approach can be developed in the context of a time-pressured clinical day and be embedded in our approach as doctors.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Harveian Society**  
**Held on May 14th 2025**

The President Professor Philip Ind welcomed members and guests and reminded them that this was a private meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2025 were read and approved by the secretary.

There was one nomination to membership: Professor Susanna Price - nominated by Dr David Treacher.

There having been no objections received, Professor Jim Ritter was elected to membership.

The President invited Professor Jim Ritter to sign the Members Book and introduce himself.

The President reminded Members about the Harvey Sunday celebrations in Folkestone, and also the Annual Buckston Brown/Gray Hill dinner in the Savile Club, the guest of honour being Sir Peter Barnes.

The President announced that the next meeting would be in the 8th October 2025 when Baroness Hilary Cass will deliver her lecture on:

**The Independent Inquiry Into Gender Identity Service : Progress**

The President then introduced Dr John Warren and invited him to give his lecture on

**The Adverse Risk/Benefit of Antidepressants**

Dr John Warren is a clinical scientist, and registered specialist in general medicine, cardiology and clinical pharmacology. He established Medicines Assessment Ltd to advise pharmaceutical companies in clinical trials between 2011-2023 and was an expert medical assessor at the U.K. MHRA and European Scientific Advice Working party at the EMA from 1995 - 2010. Dr Warren has also held Honorary Consultant posts at Charing Cross Hospital, The Brompton and Chelsea and Westminster Hospitals, and trained in clinical pharmacology at the RPMS Hammersmith.

Dr Warren gave a fascinating and wide-ranging talk about the evidence base for medications such as antidepressants; he noted that much confidential data on medications remains unpublished and that a medicines regulator has the opportunity to analyse very large volumes of confidential data.

He noted that asymmetrical commercial pressures on risk benefit analysis can lead to multiple distortions, with the data regarding antidepressant medications being a case in point, and commented that with the data on antidepressants, there is an influence of multiple composite endpoints to magnify efficacy, the limitations of safety datasets and the statistical approach to the Precautionary Principle. This is highly important as approximately nine million people in the U.K. are currently taking antidepressant medications.

Dr Warren stated that data in medications is mostly regarding populations rather than individuals, and that in responder analyses and risk vs benefit, mortality data is the gold standard. With antidepressants there is still a disagreement amongst specialists with some believing they are over-prescribed, and others thinking that they are not prescribed enough.

Questions at the end of the lecture included discussing the placebo effect , Paroxetine trials, data on suicide and the influence of the legal system in the USA on medications, prescribing and regulation.

30 Members and Guests Attended

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Harveian Society**  
**Held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

The President Professor Philip Ind welcomed members and guests and reminded them that this was a private meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2025 were read and approved by the secretary.

There were no nominations to membership. There having been no objections received, **Professor Susanna Price** was elected to membership.

The President thanked those who responded to the request for subscriptions and reminded those who have not paid that subscriptions were now due.

The President reminded members that the Christmas function, which will be a combined function with the Hunterian Society, will be held on the evening of the 10th December 2025 in The Long Room at the Oval – a prestigious location. There will be arrival drinks, a festive carvery with wine, coffee, and mince pies for £95 per head.

The President announced that the next meeting would be on 12th November 2025 which will be the Annual General Meeting and The Presidential Address entitled:

**The Vaping Epidemic**

The President then introduced Baroness Hilary Cass and invited her to give her lecture on

**The Independent Inquiry into Gender Identity Services: Progress**

Dr Cass is a former President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, and was appointed by NHS England to chair the Independent Review of Gender Identity Services for children and young people, which was published in April 2024. Her previous clinical role was as a tertiary neurodisability consultant. She has been Chair of the British Academy of Childhood Disability and of Together for Short Lives and held a range of senior education and management roles throughout her career.

In her talk, Dr Cass outlined in detail the process and conclusions of the of the Independent Review – the Cass review. She reflected on the difficulties in this area and as to the reasons for the review in what had become an increasingly polarised and indeed toxic debate.

Dr Cass covered in detail the principles which informed the review which included: evidence, lived experience, professional input, and international sources. She also discussed and commented upon reasons why the debate had become so polarised and why there seemed to be no tolerance for complexity and uncertainty in this area, and the role that social media had played.

Dr Cass commented on international data and evidence, and re-emphasised that the central aim of the review was to help young people thrive and achieve their life goals, and to restore the same evidence standards to treating gender dysphoria in children and young people, as applied to other areas of practice. There were also other reflections on the review process, specific statistics on the prevalence of gender non-contentedness, and comments on transferable learning to other areas of practice.

Questions asked included: questions about misinformation, international comparisons, treatment of patients with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia and the personal impact on herself of the review.

38 Members and Guests Attended

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Harveian Society**  
**Held on November 12th 2025**

The President, Professor Philip Ind, welcomed members and guests and reminded them that this was a private meeting. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 were read and approved by the Secretary.

The President thanked those who responded to the request for subscriptions, and reminded those who have not paid, that subscriptions were now due.

The President reminded Members that the Christmas Function, which would be a combined function with the Hunterian Society, would be held on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 in the Long Room at the Oval – a prestigious location, with arrival drinks, a festive carvery with wine, coffee, and mince pies.

The President stated that the 2026 programme was largely complete and would be posted out very soon.

The President announced that the next ordinary meeting, under the new President will on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026, when Professor Bob Klaber will deliver his lecture:

**KINDNESS: THE BUSINESS END OF HEALTHCARE**

The President then delivered the Presidential Lecture:

**THE VAPING EPIDEMIC**

Emeritus Professor Philip Ind qualified at Cambridge and University College Hospital, undergoing specialist training in London in Respiratory medicine, and he was appointed a Consultant and Honorary Senior lecturer at Ealing and Hammersmith Hospitals in 1986, before moving full time to Hammersmith as Clinical Head of Department in 1996. His clinical and research interests included: airway disease, asthma, COPD, cough, induced sputum, haemoptysis and vasculitis, and he conducted many clinical studies, including large multi-centre pharmaceutical company sponsored trials, with over 120 peer reviewed publications. He has lectured widely at home and abroad before retiring fully in 2019.

Professor Ind sat on an Expert Advisory Committee to the Commission on Human Medicines between 2009 – 2020, and his interest in Vaping stemmed from looking at E-cigarette vaping and lung injury.

In a superb and wide-ranging Presidential lecture, Professor Ind discussed all aspects of the current Vaping epidemic, reviewing: the development of e-cigarettes, the increasing prevalence on vaping, potential risks as well as positive factors such as smoking cessation, and he also mentioned and analysed the increasingly common issue of vaping amongst children.

In the lecture Professor Ind covered in excellent detail discussion about the origins of e-cigarettes, from their invention in 2003 by Hon Lik a Chinese pharmacist. Topics also covered included: estimated trends in global vaping, the evolution of e-cigarettes and e-cigarette and vaping lung injury – EVALI - and other pulmonary conditions associated with vaping. Vaping prevalence in the UK and globally was analysed and trend in usage in aged 11-17 looked at.

It was noted from evidence in a 2025 Cochrane review in January 2025 that e-cigarettes are more effective than NRT in stopping smoking for six months, and that there were only minor adverse effects which decreased over time. There was further analysis of the relationship between vaping and smoking and role it may play in successful smoking cessation. The risks of vaping in terms of lung cancer, asthma and COPD and cardiovascular disease were discussed, as well as risks in terms of fires and explosions.

Finally, a brilliant summary of the risks of childhood vaping, and vaping in schools – which is currently hugely topical - was presented as well as mention of regulation of e-cigarettes and the global picture in this, with the key message being succinctly stated by Sir Chris Whitty the CMO:

*“Key points about vaping are easily summarised. If you smoke, vaping is much safer; if you don’t smoke don’t vape”*

Questions at the end included further questions and discussion about vaping in schools and by teenagers, the key messages regarding vaping and smoking, and one audience member offered their personal lived experiences of vaping.

35 Members and Guests Attended

<i>President-Elect Designate:</i>	DR JOANNE BROWN
<i>Vice Presidents:</i>	MR ROBERT MAURICE-WILLIAMS MA MB Bchir FRCS FRCP DR DAVID TREACHER MS FRCP
<i>Honorary Treasurer:</i>	DR HELEN GRAHAM, MB ChB DCH FRCGP FHEA
<i>Honorary Secretaries:</i>	DR DAVID MUMMERY MB ChB MRCGP DR JOANNA BROWN (POST NOMS)
<i>Honorary Archivist:</i>	DR JENNIFER DOVE MB BS FRCPPath
<i>Councillors:</i>	DR PETER BENNETT MD FRCP DHMSA DR JAMES BINGHAM MB MCh BAO FRCP FRCOG MRS CATRIONA HEAD SRN PROFESSOR TIM OLIVER MD FRCP BChir MS MARILYN DAVEY BA PGCE DR MALCOLM STODELL FRCP DR CHRISTOPHER TREVES-BROWN MB BS LLB PROFESSOR PHILIP STEER BSc (HONS) MD FRCOG DR JENNIFER DOVE DR CHRISTOPHER MEADOWS
<i>Trustees:</i>	PROFESSOR ROBERT DOUGLAS BSc PhD DR ALISON TWIGLEY LRCP MRCS MB BS FRCA
<i>Executive Secretary:</i>	COMMANDER MIKE FLYNN FCMI Chartered MCIPD MS LEAH PARVIN

**The 2025 Annual Commemoration of William Harvey in Folkestone**

