

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE CONFERENCE 2023



St John's
CHAMBERS

Wednesday, 1st November @ 8.45am - 5.00pm
St George's Bristol, Great George Street, BS1 5RR
Cost: £100 + VAT

The Clinical Negligence team at St John's Chambers invite you to join us for this year's annual conference, focused around the theme of Obstetrics.

Talks will be given by medicolegal experts from the fields of obstetrics, neonatology and midwifery and by barristers from the team. The event will explore topics within the field of obstetrics, including birth injuries, antenatal and postnatal care, and delivery-related gynaecological injuries.

Raising funds for

Bliss
for babies born
premature or sick

To book your place, visit:
www.stjohnschambers.co.uk

CPD: 6 hours APIL accredited

This one-day conference is designed for claimant and defendant clinical negligence lawyers of all seniority.

Highlights

- Brachial plexus injury: Myths, evidence and legal perspective
- Neonatal hypoglycaemia
- Introduction to birth injury claims
- Quantum in obstetrics claims
- Fetal monitoring
- Breach of duty in birth injury claims: tactics and pitfalls
- Causation in the delivery room

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Drinks sponsored by

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PROGRAMME

“ St John’s Chambers is well regarded for its expert representation in complex and high-value disputes in clinical negligence and inquest proceedings. Barristers are very analytical and able to forensically examine expert reports in conference.”

CHAMBERS UK, 2023

8.45 - 9.15am	Registration and refreshments
9.15 - 9.30am	Welcome and introduction from chair Matthew Phillips KC, Head of the Clinical Negligence team, St John’s Chambers
9.30 - 9.45am	About Bliss Owain Rees, Partnerships Manager
9.45 - 10.45am	Brachial plexus injury: Myths, evidence and legal perspective Prof Dimitrios Siassakos Consultant in Obstetrics at University College London and University College Hospital & Justin Valentine, Deputy Head of Clinical Negligence team, St John’s Chambers
10.45 - 11.05	Trends in birth injury work Trevor Ward, Partner & Head of Birth Injury Unit, Fletchers Group
11.05 - 11.30am	Refreshments
11.30 - 12.15pm	Neonatal hypoglycaemia Dr Jane Hawdon, Consultant Neonatologist
12.15 - 1.00pm	Introduction to birth injury claims Rob Mills, Deputy Head of Clinical Negligence team & Rhodri Jones, Barrister
1.00 - 1.45pm	Lunch
1.45 - 2.30pm	Quantum in obstetrics claims Rachel Segal and Jimmy Barber, Barristers
2.30 - 3.15pm	Fetal monitoring Debbie Johnson, Lead Midwife for Education at University of Greenwich
3.15 - 3.30pm	Refreshments
3.30 - 4.15pm	Breach of duty in birth injury claims: tactics and pitfalls James Hughes and Lauren Karmel, Barristers
4.15 - 5.00pm	Causation in the delivery room, a live legal debate James Marwick & Andrew McLaughlin, Barristers, St John’s Chambers
5.00pm	Close for questions and answers - followed by drinks and canapes

SPEAKERS

“ St John’s Chambers is well regarded for its expert representation of both claimants and defendants, including several NHS trusts, medical defence organisations and private individuals, in complex and high-value disputes and in clinical negligence inquest proceedings.”

CHAMBERS UK, 2022



Owain Rees

Partnership Manager, Bliss

Owain Rees is the Partnerships Manger at Bliss, the charity for the newborn, as well as a proud Bristolian (despite now living in Kent). He has worked in corporate partnerships for over 10 years, supporting a variety of charitable causes including healthcare, homelessness and youth outreach. The decision to take a role at Bliss was made following the arrival of his daughter in 2021, in the hope of supporting more parents navigate the challenges of neonatal intensive care.



Prof Dimitrios Siassakos

Consultant in Obstetrics

Dimitrios is Professor and Honorary Consultant in Obstetrics at University College London and University College Hospital. He was awarded his professorial chair in 2020-2021. His clinical work is devoted to managing labour ward, and to looking after women with previous adverse pregnancy outcome, to optimize their chance of a healthy subsequent pregnancy.



Trevor Ward

Partner & Head of Birth
Injury Unit, Fletchers
Group

As the Chief Assessor for the Law Society’s Clinical Negligence Panel, a title in which Trevor has been an accredited member and assessor since inception in 1994, he directly works with many of the UK’s leading Counsel. Trevor’s caseload ranges from cases valued at over a £100,000 to over £20 million, seeing him act on birth injury mediations and achieve many life-changing settlements for vulnerable individuals and their families. He has been with Fletchers since 2017 and is currently responsible for a team of 12 within their medical negligence department who work on complex and high value medical negligence claims. Across his career, Trevor has been recognised for his skill and hard work within his field and was said to be ‘a past master at clinical negligence cases; very experienced, great judgement.’ In a testimonial on the Legal 500. He has been a AVMA panel member for over from 20 years.

SPEAKERS

Ranked in Band 1 for Clinical Negligence in Chambers UK



Debbie Johnson

Lead Midwife for Education at
University of Greenwich

Debbie is the lead midwife for the Education and Midwifery Programme Lead at the University of Greenwich where she oversees the standards of education for midwifery and teaches across the curriculum. Her specialist areas are fetal monitoring, women's rights, and nutrition in pregnancy. She also works a few hours each week as a Professional Midwifery Advocate at a local maternity unit, supporting midwives and students, as well as keeping her hand in clinically. Prior to moving into her academic role, Debbie was a midwifery sister and matron, mainly working on delivery suite.



Dr Jane Hawdon

Consultant Neonatologist

Dr Jane Hawdon studied medicine at the universities of Cambridge and Newcastle upon Tyne and was awarded PhD at Newcastle for research into neonatal metabolic adaptation, a topic on which she has written and lectured widely. Dr Hawdon is currently a medical director, responsible officer and consultant neonatologist at Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust. She has previously held consultant and clinical leadership posts at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Barts Health NHS Trust, and regional and national educational roles. She is a member of the board of trustees of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and a school governor. She has been member of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, NICE guideline development groups, and the board of trustees of the charity Bliss. She has chaired the neonatal hypoglycaemia working group of the NHS Improvement Patient Safety programme and was the neonatal clinical lead for the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit (HQIP programme). She is a qualified coach and facilitator.



Matthew Phillips KC

Year of call: 1993 KC: 2017

"Matthew is great with clients and he is adept at getting straight to the crux of a matter." CHAMBERS UK, 2023

In the field of clinical negligence Matthew represents both claimants and defendants in a wide variety of claims of significant value. He has particular experience in the fields of birth injury, failed spinal surgery and cardiological issues.

BARRISTERS

“ A 'go-to set' in the South West for clinical negligence.”

LEGAL 500, 2023



Andrew McLaughlin,

Year of call: 1993

“Andrew is a first-rate barrister. He is exceptional.”

CHAMBERS UK, 2023

Andrew undertakes complex clinical negligence work involving difficult issues surrounding breach of duty and causation primarily on behalf of NHS Trusts in England and Local Health Boards in Wales. He had notable success in the latter part of 2019, including the successful defence at trial of a claim against a Professor of Colorectal Surgery who was accused of negligent execution of a laparoscopic colon resection in which it was alleged that there had been a negligent perforation of a ureter. Hitherto he defended a claim for inappropriate treatment of a suspected pulmonary embolism causing a fatal cerebral infarction which was tried by Sir Robert Francis KC. He was involved in defending claims for alleged negligent spinal surgery and another claim for an alleged failure to treat Charcot arthropathy.



Justin Valentine

Deputy Head of Clinical Negligence

Year of call: 1999

“Justin has a no-nonsense and forensic approach, is good in managing client expectations and possesses fantastic attention to detail.”

LEGAL 500, 2023

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 has particular interest in obstetrics and gynaecology cases where consent issues are often present. He also specialises in cauda equina cases and is credited as a contributor to the GIRFT National Suspected Cauda Equina Syndrome Pathway. He has extensive experience of a range of clinical negligence cases including delayed diagnosis of cancer and diabetic cases and is instructed by many of the leading firms in clinical negligence.



Jimmy Barber

Year of call: 2008

Jimmy is a specialist practitioner in the fields of clinical negligence, personal injury and industrial disease. He joined St John's Chambers in September 2015 having previously practised in London. In clinical negligence, Jimmy has experience of cases involving a wide array of areas of medicine and dentistry and acts for healthcare providers, clinicians and claimants. He regularly advises on and settles pleadings in cases involving delays in diagnosis, injuries caused by or in the course of surgery and failure to obtain proper consent.

BARRISTERS

“The clerks are fantastic. The clerks are always very on the ball and have always been very helpful, approachable and friendly.”

LEGAL 500, 2023 (CLERKING)



James Marwick

Year of call: 2008

“A junior who prepares meticulously and will fight a case for you.”
LEGAL 500, 2023

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. He was instructed in the recent High Court case of *Richins v Birmingham Women's Children NHS Foundation Trust* [2022] EWHC 847 (a stillbirth case arising out of negligent midwifery) which is one of the leading reported decisions on claimant/Keefe benevolence in a clinical negligence context



James Hughes

Year of call: 2011

“A tenacious advocate, who is very approachable and appreciated by clients and witnesses alike for his easy-going manner and interpersonal skills.” LEGAL 500, 2023

James is a specialist clinical negligence practitioner. James has experience acting for both claimants and defendant trusts or clinicians, in cases where there is more than one defendant, in clinical negligence claims. Recent work includes injury to external iliac artery during laparoscopic sterilisation surgery, wrongful or late cancer diagnosis and negligent prescription of opioid analgesics.



Rachel Segal

Year of call: 2013

“Rachel has impeccable attention to detail, and is able to give quick and firm advice on difficult questions.” LEGAL 500, 2023

Rachel is a specialist Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence barrister whose oncology practice has focused on delayed diagnosis of cancer and misdiagnosis of breast cancers, cervical, endometrial and colorectal cancers, and cancers of the bone. She deals with ophthalmological cases, including keratoconus and Fuchs Endothelial Dystrophy. Rachel's current Obstetrics cases include stillbirths, birth and neonatal injuries, and post-partum gynaecological and psychological injuries.

BARRISTERS

“St John’s Chambers is well regarded in complex and high-value clinical negligence and inquest proceedings.”

CHAMBERS UK 2022

“Robert is an outstanding barrister; he combines forensic analysis with pragmatic problem solving. He guides experts and clients in a methodical yet relaxed manner which allows him to challenge expert views if necessary, without ruffling feathers.” LEGAL 500, 2023



Robert Mills

Year of call: 2014

Clinical negligence is the focus of Robert’s practice. He undertakes a wide range of clinical negligence work, with regular instructions across all areas of medicine, including obstetrics, brain injuries, oncology, orthopaedics and cardiology. He is experienced in handling high value clinical negligence litigation involving life-changing injuries. Robert has a particular interest in the law surrounding fatal accident claims, which represent a core component of his practice and on which he regularly provides training. He provides specialist advice on high value claims for care, loss of earnings and pension loss.



Lauren Karmel

Year of call: 2017

Lauren joined Chambers in April 2022 following the successful completion of her pupillage under the supervision of Justin Valentine. Lauren accepts instructions in all areas of clinical negligence and inquest work, and is regularly instructed in clinical negligence claims involving ureteric and psychological injuries sustained during childbirth. Lauren is also developing a strong paper based practice in all areas of medicine, including oncology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics and emergency medicine.



Rhodri Jones

Year of call : 2017

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

Rhodri assisted in the appeal case of *David Price v Cwn Taf University*

Health Board [2019] EWHC 938 (QB). He has a particular interest in claims with complex issues of causation. Rhodri also has significant experience in inquests representing families and Healthcare Trusts.

EXHIBITORS



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Bliss
for babies born
premature or sick

blume



Partnership LLP
Wyvern

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