

## **History of Dermatology in Hull and East Yorkshire**

The Hull Dermatology department was established at least in embryo in 1965 at the former Hull Royal Infirmary in Albion Street on the appointment of Dr Kalman Keczkes, as prior to that there was no trained dermatologist in Hull and East Yorkshire.

Historically, the most recently appointed General Physician was given a skin clinic to do whether or not it was his interest. Anecdotally therefore, the morning train to Leeds was the main venue for sufferers on their way for help at Leeds General Infirmary, where there were several consultants in the Skin Department which had been founded by Dr John Ingram on his appointment in 1927. These consultants visited many outlying hospitals all over Yorkshire, but Hull was apparently not included as it is not mentioned in Dr Anning's account of the Leeds Department. The last General Physician appointed to see skin patients in Hull, Dr E O Halliwell became fascinated by the challenge of skin disease and decided to continue this interest for the rest of his working life.

Dr Keczkes had been a medical student in Budapest, Hungary, and with many others had fought Russian occupying forces and had to flee to the UK. He completed his medical course in Scotland and trained in Dermatology in Glasgow and Dundee. He acquired clinics and inpatient beds in several different hospitals in the Hull area and it is to his credit that that he brought these facilities together as a new Hull Dermatology department in 1967 at the newly built Hull Royal Infirmary on Anlaby Road. He established a dedicated outpatient department with a well equipped theatre, adequate secretarial support and 33 adult inpatient beds for dermatology. In addition to consulting there, he did a weekly clinic at Beverley Westwood Hospital in East Yorkshire.

Dr Edward H Wyatt was the second dermatologist to be appointed in Hull in 1972, and besides working at the Infirmary, he also visited the Lloyd Hospital at Bridlington twice a week and the Alfred Bean Hospital at Driffield once a week, both hospitals in East Yorkshire. Later the Bridlington clinic moved to the new Bridlington Hospital, built to modern standards. Dr Wyatt enjoyed escaping twice a week from the concrete environment of Hull Royal Infirmary to the green fields and seaside of

East Yorkshire. However, leaving home early to travel north meant the obstruction by farm vehicles and caravans in warmer weather and the hazards of slippery roads in winter. Dr Wyatt recalls sometimes arriving in Bridlington counting on the fingers of one hand how many abandoned vehicles he had seen in ditches. However, from having his windscreen broken by a low-flying pheasant, he was fortunate in never having an accident on these trips.

In those early days, liaison with GPs was important, including many domiciliary visits. There were 5 GP clinical assistants in Hull, one at Beverley and one at Bridlington. GP teaching was a priority and Dr Wyatt started a Skin Club for local GPs at Hull Royal Infirmary in the evenings and continued this with great enthusiasm until he retired in 1995. The most ambitious of these meetings was a trip to Ghent in Belgium via North Sea Ferries with talks by both British and Belgian dermatologists. Teaching was also given a high priority in outpatient clinics which were more often than not attended by trainees of varying categories, e.g. Sheffield medical students, hospital medical staff and GPs, and this was long before the establishment of the Hull York Medical School.

Together, Dr Keczkcs and Dr Wyatt were able to appoint a registrar and later a senior registrar and at one stage a research registrar. Dr Aiden Taffe, an Irishman, was the first senior registrar who was appointed in 1977 and was followed by Dr Shernaz Walton, a Parsi from Bombay who was appointed in 1983. These 2 trainees brought cultural diversity to Hull, and were the only 2 senior registrar appointments before this grade was abolished and replaced by the 'Calman trainee'.

Hull hosted several North of England Dermatological Society (NEDS) meetings, and a particularly memorable one was the combined NEDS and Dowling Club meeting in 1985, when with a little creative accounting, we took 50 people to the Opera in addition to the rest of the social and educational programme, including a day on Geographical Dermatology at Hull University. The kudos of the department was also helped by Dr Wyatt's appointment for 2 years as medical tutor and subsequently for 5 years as Director of the Hull and East Yorkshire Post Graduate Medical Centre. He held in his turn the Presidency of the Hull

Medical Society. After his earlier tropical experience, he served for several years on the Leprosy Panel in London.

Research was also a high priority in Hull. Both Dr Keczkcs and Dr Wyatt, with members of junior staff, published clinical papers on several different subjects, and Dr Wyatt also published papers on scanning electron microscopy of hair with Dr John Riggott, a scientist at Hull University. Dr Shernaz Walton brought her research interests on sebum, sweat and hair from Newcastle where she trained as a registrar and continued these in the light of clinically associated conditions (i.e. acne and hirsutism) under the supervision of Professor Bill Cunliffe in Leeds. She collaborated with several laboratory based centres in London producing various publications in high impact journals. She also developed a research unit which is engaged in several national and international multicentre clinical trials under the auspices of the Comprehensive Local Research Network (CLRN).

Dr Keczkcs, because of his European connections (mainly Hungary where he was a visiting professor) became quite well known internationally. Both Dr Keczkcs and Dr Wyatt became in their turn Presidents of the NEDS having regularly attended most of their meetings. Dr Wyatt also attended the monthly clinical meetings of the Section of Dermatology at the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM).

Dr James Vestey was appointed as Dr Wyatt's successor, who after a brief period of 2 years moved to the Scottish Highlands.

However, Dr Shernaz Walton was then appointed as a consultant in 1997 and she carried on the Skin Club tradition, which was then extended to include nurses, both from the department and from GP practices. Since the Dermatology Department had moved to Princess Royal Hospital in Sutton, East Hull, in 1994, it was less accessible for GPs and nurses from West Hull and East Yorkshire and therefore the Skin Club venue was changed to an oriental setting of Mr Chu's Chinese restaurant on the banks of the Humber estuary situated in St Andrew's quay. This venue had the added attraction of not only its beautiful location, but also a well-equipped lecture room with power point facilities and seating for 80 delegates.

The Dermatology Department moved from Hull Royal Infirmary to The Princess Royal Hospital in 1994, to replace the old department with an integrated Dermatology centre with modern facilities for Phototherapy, Photodynamic Therapy, Minor Surgery, Day case treatment and integrated 13 inpatient beds. Dr Walton, on her appointment in 1997 also extended the service to include a number of community clinics in GP practices in Hull & East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire, well ahead of Lord Darzi's vision of 'care closer to home'. The department also has active links with the University and Hull York Medical School and was instrumental in developing the 'Bid' for a medical school in Hull and since its commencement in 2003, in developing and delivering the dermatology curriculum.

The Princess Royal Hospital will shut down in October 2010 and the Dermatology Department will move back to a new purpose-built department within the grounds of Hull Royal Infirmary with the development of a Hub and Spoke model delivering diagnostic and treatment care, including Phototherapy in various Spokes in the city. This has led to an expansion of staff to include 3 Consultants, 3 Specialty Doctors, clinical assistants, GPwSIs and 3 Clinical Nurse Specialists (Systemic/ Biologics, Phototherapy, Leg ulcer), with plans to appoint two further Consultants and a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Skin Cancer to serve an extended population of 1.2 million.

Further Consultant appointments have included Dr A Butt (2000-2004), Dr J Britton (2006-2008) and Dr S Sinclair (2008- to date). Dr Siobhan Sinclair has helped to develop the Paediatric Dermatology Service and takes an active interest in educational supervision of juniors. Dr Javed Mohungoo who has a special interest in Lasers has been appointed as the Consultant and takes up his post in July 2010.

Dr Shernaz Walton

Dr Edward H Wyatt

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