



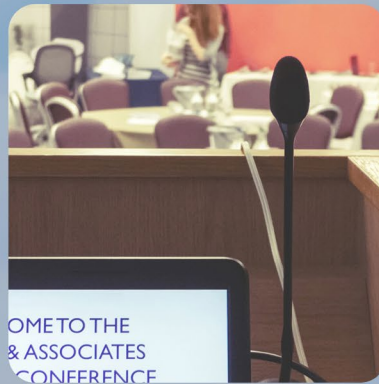
SOMEK
AND ASSOCIATES

medico-legal consultancy

CELEBRATING
OUR
RESILIENCE

virtual
annual conference
18th June 2021

WELCOME





Welcome to our 2021 annual conference and what better a theme for it than Celebrating our Resilience!

It is really wonderful to have you all together again, even if it is still only in a virtual capacity for now. We know this year has brought so many of you challenges and difficulties in both your personal and professional lives. It certainly has been a time of uncertainty for us all, and yet Somek and Associates with its “can do” attitude has, with the full support and dedication of its staff and all of you, our experts, continued to do what it has always done best – problem solve, adapt, reflect and learn and develop.

We continue to be one of the strongest Medico-legal services providers in our field as evidenced by the increased number of case enquiries and the positive feedback we have received from our clients regarding the way in which we have delivered our high quality service, even in the face of the pandemic.

Please do not underestimate the significant part you have played in all of this: whether it is by your dedication to your casework, writing medico-legal articles for publication, contributing to discussions that further develop the quality of medico-legal practice or simply recommending us to your colleagues. We are certainly proud of each and every one of you.

We hope you will enjoy our conference this year – once again we have been very lucky to have the support of fantastic speakers, all of whom have very kindly made time for us, despite them being very busy. Our conferences would not be able to run without their support so please do ask questions at the end as they will be very willing to help.

We also thank the experts that have volunteered to give you a little 5-minute insight into their own expert witness experience of a tricky or unfamiliar situation, by way of a gong session. These have always been very well received at past conferences.

As always, our conference is a time for us to press pause and reflect upon our practice as expert witnesses and to take away valuable learning that will continue to shape our practice, the way we approach our cases and the way we provide our evidence, both written and oral.

Please enjoy the day!

Alison Somek, CEO
Jessica Thurston, Chief Operating Officer

🕒 PROGRAMME



08:45

Login

09:00

Welcome, introduction and Somek and Associates update
Alison Somek, Somek and Associates

09:30

Experts - Recent cases
Dr John Sorabji, Nine St John Street Chambers

10:20

The Impact of Covid 19 on litigation – one year on
Richard Biggs, Irwin Mitchell LLP

11:10

Tea and coffee break

11:20

The role of mediation in case settlement
Andrew Hannam, Enable Law/Trust Mediation

12:10

Parallel sessions - Login

12:15

Parallel Sessions - Quantum
Busting the myths and understanding the real challenges of care provision
Wren Hooper, Westcountry Case Management

12:15

Parallel sessions - Liability
The Claimant's and Defendant's journey and use of experts evidence
Kirsten Wall, Leigh Day; David Froome, Kennedys Law

12:15

Parallel sessions - Speech and Language Therapy
EyeOn Works for AAC and AT
Roy Sourabh Bikash, EyeTech International Ltd

12:15

Parallel sessions - Physiotherapy
Redefining possibilities
Becki Drewett and Matt Pollock, Neurokinex

13:05

Lunch break

14:00

Parallel sessions - Quantum
The Good, the Bad and the Joint Expert Meeting
Amy Fielding, Stewarts Law; Carla Applegate, Gordons Solicitors

14:00

Parallel sessions - Liability
How Bolitho trumps Bolam; Montgomery and consent
Lauren Sutherland, Ampersand Advocates

14:50

Tea and coffee break

15:10

Counsels expectations of an expert at case conference, experts' meetings and trial. Key differences between English and Scottish Civil Litigation
Lauren Sutherland, Ampersand Advocates

16:00

Gong sessions
Fundamental dishonesty, "the truth and nothing but the truth"
Suzi Rodd, Somek and Associates

16:00

Gong sessions
Social media – lessons learned
Susannah Boyle, Somek and Associates

16:00

Gong sessions
When experts meetings don't go to plan!
Sadia Hussain, Somek and Associates

16:30

Close
Jessica Thurston, Somek and Associates

SPEAKERS





Dr John Sorabji

Barrister; Lecturer
Nine St John Street Chambers

09:30

Experts - Recent cases

Dr John Sorabji is a barrister, practising from Nine St John Street Chambers. He is also a lecturer in the Faculty of Law at University College London, where he teaches Principles of Civil Justice, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Access to Justice and contract law courses on its LLB and LLM course. He is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Paris-II. He is the General Editor of the White Book. He is also the author of English Civil Justice after Woolf and Jackson (2014), and a contributing author of both Fosskett on Compromise (2015) and Civil Litigation in a Comparative Context (2017). Previously he was the principal legal adviser to the Lord Chief Justice and the Master of the Rolls, as well as being a governor of the Expert Witness Institute.

Richard has worked at Irwin Mitchell for around 10 years and is based in the Manchester office. He specialises in complex and high-value claims, particularly in brain injury and amputation cases.

He does everything he can to ensure that all of his clients have access to the best possible rehabilitation at the earliest opportunity following a serious accident.

Richard is named as a 'Rising Star' in the Legal 500; 'Associate to Watch' in Chambers and Partners and has been shortlisted for 'Solicitor of the Year' in this year's Manchester legal awards.



Richard Biggs

Senior Associate Solicitor
Irwin Mitchell LLP

10:20

The Impact of Covid 19
on litigation – one year on

Andrew Hannam

Consultant/Mediator
Enable Law/Trust Mediation

11:20

The role of mediation in case
settlement

Andrew has been a partner for many years with Enable Law during which time he conducted many high value clinical negligence claims. In addition Andrew managed awards for clients without capacity as either Trustee or Deputy.

The focus now is on mediating clinical negligence claims through the NHS Resolution mediation scheme. Andrew is a Director of Trust Mediation.

Wren Hooper

Registered Manager
Westcountry Case Management



12:15

Quantum
Busting the myths and understanding
the real challenges of care provision

Wren Hooper joined WCM in April 2016 as Registered Manager, ensuring that compliance with the CQC is upheld in all aspects of WCM's work and engagement with clients. His work includes overseeing directly employed packages for individual clients, as well as liaising with agency providers. He delivers brain injury and other associated training. Wren is a strong advocate for meeting high standards in all of the CQC key lines of enquiry ensuring an Outstanding in All KLOE areas at last inspection. He previously has held roles as a founding director and registered manager of a company which pioneered a specialist support worker approach.

Wren completed his RGN training in 1996 at the Royal Hampshire Hospital and worked both there and also at Southampton General Hospital, primarily in critical care and latterly managing a rehabilitation unit. Wren attempts to approach his work with a vibrant enthusiasm and humour!

Kirsten is a Partner at Leigh Day and have been acting for Claimants in Clinical Negligence cases for 15 years.

She is instructed in a broad range of cases against NHS Trusts, GPs and private doctors as well as against military healthcare providers.

Kirsten has experience of cases arising out of negligent obstetric management, spinal surgery and has a particular interest in claims arising out of the delayed diagnosis of cancer. Over the years she developed a specialism in cases arising out of the delayed diagnosis of cancer in pregnant women.

Kirsten Wall

Partner
Leigh Day



12:15

Liability
The Claimant's and Defendant's
journey and use of experts evidence

David Froome

Senior Associate
Kennedys Law



12:15

Liability
The Claimant's and Defendant's
journey and use of experts evidence

David is a Senior Associate in Kennedys' London office. He qualified as a Chartered Legal Executive in 1997 and as a Solicitor in England and Wales in 2001. David specialises in clinical negligence and on instructions from the NHS Resolution representing NHS Trusts. Whilst his extensive NHS litigation experience covers all aspects of clinical negligence, he specialises in the most complex and highest value catastrophic injury or fatal accident claims, including those in obstetrics, paediatrics/neonatology, neurology and neurosurgery/spinal surgery.



Roy Sourabh Bikash

Regional AAC Consultant
EyeTech International Ltd

12:15

Speech and Language Therapy
EyeOn Works for AAC and AT

In his role with EyeTech International, Roy impacts lives by providing new possibilities for communication and helping people fulfil their potential using eye tracking AAC solutions.

EyeTech is the global leader in Health AI with its revolutionary eye tracking and tunable technology platform. Their exclusive design combines the flexibility of an ultra-high-speed FPGA processing with AI algorithms and advanced analytics to deliver unrivalled, eye data intelligence with HIPAA integrity.

Outside work, Roy has keen interest in public speaking, travelling, cricket and interior design.

Becki graduated from the University of Birmingham in 2006 with a BSc (Hons) degree in Physiotherapy and later completed a MSc. She is registered with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, is a HCPC member in addition to being a member of ACPIN, MASCIP and ACP.

She has specialised in neurological and musculoskeletal physiotherapy where she has worked in acute hospitals, out-patient clinics and specialist regional rehabilitation units. She has worked with stable neurological conditions, progressive neurological conditions, acquired neurological conditions, spinal cord injuries, brain injuries and in the area of pre and post neurological surgery. During her time working across the spectrum of care for neurologically impaired individuals she has also spent time working with injured armed forces personnel and high performance athletic individuals.



Becki Drewett

Clinical Lead
Neurokinex

12:15

Physiotherapy
Redefining possibilities

Matt graduated from the University of Bath in 2018 with a BSc (Hons) degree in Sport and Exercise Science. He completed a year long internship at Neurokinex as part of his university degree and shortly after enrolled as a full time employee at the Neurokinex Bristol centre.

Matt Pollock

Specialist Neurological Trainer
Neurokinex

12:15

Physiotherapy
Redefining possibilities

Amy Fielding

Senior Associate
Stewarts Law



14:00

Quantum
The Good, the Bad and the Joint
Expert Meeting

Amy specialises in high value Claimant catastrophic clinical negligence claims at Stewarts and has over 14 years' experience. As a previous Registered Nurse and District Nursing Practitioner she worked in number of fields before then retraining in law. She specialises in spinal cord, brain and birth related injuries. She also has extensive experience in fatal claims brought by their families. In addition, she specialises in nursing care claims where clients have suffered severe pressure injuries, contractures and amputations usually involving clients who have previously suffered catastrophic spinal injuries.

Carla is an experienced clinical negligence solicitor at Gordons Partnership. Carla acts mainly on behalf of doctors for a leading medical defence organisation in complex claims typically involving catastrophic injury.

Having litigated on behalf of Claimants for over 10 years, Carla joined Gordons Partnership in September 2019. She currently acts in a range of medical defence matters including a number of stroke cases, cauda equina claims, and oncology and kidney injury claims. Her previous experience also included acquired brain injury, orthopaedic injury and fatal claims.

Carla Applegate

Associate
Gordons Solicitors



14:00

Quantum
The Good, the Bad and the Joint
Expert Meeting

Lauren was called to the bar in 1996 and took silk in 2016. Prior to this she was a Solicitor in private practice specialising in Personal Injury, Professional and Clinical Negligence.

She is ranked in Chambers UK (Band 1) and The Legal 500 for Clinical Negligence. She has vast experience in catastrophic injury claims including children with cerebral palsy and has conducted many complex Fatal Accident Inquiries into hospital deaths. She was part of the legal team for the claimant in the landmark case of *Montgomery v Lanarkshire Health Board* and presented the first argument for the claimant in the Appeal Court in Scotland. In 2009 she was one of two Counsel appointed by the Scottish Government to lead the Vale of Leven Hospital Inquiry into the outbreak of *C difficile* at the hospital.

She has lectured extensively to lawyers and doctors on clinical negligence and personal injury.

Lauren Sutherland

QC
Ampersand Advocates



14:00 15:10

Liability
How Bolitho trumps Bolam;
Montgomery and consent

Counsels expectations of an expert at case conference, experts' meetings and trial. Key differences between English and Scottish Civil Litigation

GONG SESSIONS





Suzi Rodd

Occupational Therapist
and Care Expert

16:00

Fundamental dishonesty,
“the truth and nothing but the truth”

Since qualifying as an occupational therapist in 1995, Suzi has gained expertise in providing advanced specialist assessments and clinical interventions for individual patients. Suzi has a special interest in acquired neurological conditions or complex physical and/or learning disabilities. Suzi has extensive experience of working with those with complex postural difficulties and who require access to specialist equipment to meet their needs. In addition, Suzi has also worked with clients with amputation, orthopaedic injuries including upper and lower limb injuries. Suzi is a practicing case manager.

Susannah qualified as a registered nurse in 2001. Susannah has experience of working as an acute hospital nurse in both emergency care and hospital site management. Clinical interventions that Susannah is competent to undertake include administering pain relief, advanced wound care, venepuncture and cannulation, male and female catheterisation and catheter care, arterial blood gas sampling and interpretation, triage and plastering. Susannah is also competent in risk assessment for and prevention of falls and pressure ulcers.



Susannah Boyle

Registered Nurse

16:00

Social media – lessons learned



Sadia Hussain

Speech and Language Therapist

16:00

When experts meetings
don't go to plan!

Sadia qualified as a speech and language therapist in 2003 and her interest has been mainly in the field of neurological disorders (including brain injury, stroke and Dementia) and critical medical conditions (including tracheostomy care). Sadia has worked in a variety of settings and currently works in the private rehabilitation sector, assessing and treating individuals in hospital and community settings. Sadia is fluent in Urdu (Punjabi).



SAVE THE DATE 17th JUNE 2022

Please watch this space for details of the next Somek and Associates conference. This is a key event in the Somek and Associates calendar and we would like **EVERYONE** to be there.