

## Minutes of meeting No. 69 Thursday 1st Sept 2016

### Burnley Gen Hospital Mackenzie Ctr. 2 – 4pm

29 people attended including our guest speaker Shalom Sriringam, Debbie Hesketh and one new attendee - Barry K. Apologies received from Jimmy C. and Martin S.

Chairman Dave opened the meeting by welcoming our new attendee and everyone in attendance.

Stuart introduced our guest speaker, Consultant Urologist Shalom Sriringam who is one of our local Urologists with the East Lancs Hospital trust, Shalom needed to speak at the beginning of the meeting because he had to go back in to the hospital to attend to Mr. Pillai's work and undertaking Biopsies, Mr. Pillai is currently off work due to a broken wrist. – Not good for operating the Robot!

He continued by explaining the abilities of the Da Vinci Robot installed at Blackburn, he said that people were under the impression that the Robot does all the work, but it is just a 'Slave of the Surgeon' and great skill is required to make it work!

A question was then asked about 'mass screening' and why so many medical professionals are not in favour of it. Barry K was also keen to find some clarification to it particularly as he had partially financed the Turf Moor testing events. Shalom said he was not against it and that he had seen a noticeable increase of patients attending the Urology department due to the PSA testing events at Burnley FC. He said that the department accepted 330 Prostate Cancer patients during the year and it is increasing. When a Prostate cancer patient is recommended to his GP he should be seen within 16 days and if treatment is required it should commence within 60 days.

When asked about the best treatments he replied that every patient's condition is discussed by **a group of Urologists**, they then make a joint decision on each patient's treatment.

Shalom explained that in the future the way forward would appear to be to have an MRI scan prior to Biopsy as a scan is far less intrusive and with less risk. Scanners are now far more accurate than 5 years ago and the latest ones at Christies are 3 tesla, the East Lancs ones are 1.5 tesla.

A question was asked about Incontinence and the benefits / problems associated with Artificial Sphincters. Shalom spoke very expertly about the subject and explained extremely clearly with the aid of the demonstration board how an artificial Sphincter functions and some of the problems that can occur. At this point he had to leave and he was given a great round of applause for the exceptional way in which he presented his talk and answered all questions, Stuart suggested to him that he could come to to speak to us again in the not too distant future and he said he would be happy to do so.

Brew time

**Dave** read out correspondence received since the last meeting and talked about the forthcoming visit to see the Medical Detection Dogs in action at Milton Keynes. He confirmed that the trip is to go ahead on Wednesday 21st September and a Marios 16 seater mini bus has been booked to leave Burnley FC at 9am and there are still 2 places available.

He informed us that the grant that Debbie had told us about which is available from United Utilities has been applied for.

He also talked about the PSA blood testing event to take place at Preston North End FC on **Sat 12th November 10am – 12 noon** and gave an update. Our group has assisted the Walnut Group (Preston) by offering advice following the success of our events at Turf Moor. Anyone who would like to help out at this event contact Dave or Stuart.

Dave closed the meeting with one of his usual amusing Prostate jokes!

Many thanks to those who took notes at this meeting in order to help compilation of these minutes.

**Next meeting: Thursday 6th Oct, Burnley Gen Hospital. Mackenzie suite 2 – 4 pm**