



AUCKLAND MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday

7 May 2025 at 7pm

Venue

Ernest and Marion Davis Library (EMDL)
Building 43, Auckland City Hospital

Lectures

The medical history of Nitrous Oxide

Presenter

Shilpan Patel

The James Newman Lecture

History of cataract surgery

Presenter

Charles McGhee

Abstracts & brief biographical details of the presenters will also be posted on the website when available. (See over)

The EMDL will be open from **6.15 pm**

All welcome- bookings are not required

See the AMHS website Latest News page for updates and links to the 2025 Programme page

Donations to the Society are invited & can be made on the night or preferably online.
Bank account: 02 0160 0237509 00



Lecture 1: *The medical history of Nitrous Oxide*

Abstract

Nitrous Oxide has been used for medicinal purposes for almost two centuries. It is a colourless and odourless gas which provides anaesthesia, however is also inhaled as a drug of abuse for a feeling of euphoria. We will journey the history of nitrous oxide from the initial use of this substance in dentistry to its role as both an anaesthetic agent and a drug of abuse in society today.

Presenter

Dr Shilpan G Patel

Shilpan Patel is an advanced trainee in neurology at Auckland City Hospital. His secondary education was at Mount Roskill Grammar School, and he graduated MB ChB from the University of Auckland in 2018. In 2022 he passed the written and clinical components of the RACP examination, gaining the top mark in the clinical examination. He has been the Chief Medical Resident and Chief Neurology Registrar at Auckland Hospital. Shilpan has published about ten scientific papers including one on a rare genetic variant in the PINK1 gene in Polynesians with early onset Parkinson's disease and another describing a potential founder effect in Māori and Pacific people with neuronal intranuclear inclusion disease. His main current research interest is moyamoya disease. While he has been a neurology registrar, he has written a paper on the spinal cord and peripheral nerve disease resulting from the poorly regulated availability and abuse of nitrous oxide. He has brought this problem to the attention of the media and the government, resulting in a change in legislation regarding the sale and possession of nitrous oxide. His efforts in this area were acknowledged last year when the Chief Medical Officer presented him with a special Staff Recognition Award.

Lecture 2: *History of cataract surgery*

Abstract

TBC

Presenter

Charles McGhee

THE JAMES NEWMAN LECTURE

James Lister Newman MD (Cam) DPH(Eng) FRCP FRACP 1903-1983

James Newman's family established the James Newman Fund which generously supports the Society.

James Newman was born in London in 1903. Educated at Shrewsbury School, he was a brilliant classics scholar and left Magdalen College, Cambridge with Hons. National Sciences Tripos. After qualifying in Medicine at Kings College Hospital in 1927, he became a Visiting Physician in Chichester and was later given wartime responsibility for the Coventry Ambulance Services.

He emigrated to New Zealand in 1947 to the Department of Health in Whangarei but tired of the bureaucracy and moved to Green Lane Hospital as medical registrar, 1951, then Medical Tutor and Physician there, and later Medical Superintendent, Cornwall Geriatric and Green Lane Hospitals. He championed the cause of the elderly and became known as the "Father of Gerontology" in New Zealand.

For many years, James, was also Editor of the *New Zealand Family Doctor*, and wrote a weekly Medical Column in the *New Zealand Herald* until the time of his death on October 17, 1983.

He presented a number of papers to the Society, which is generously supported by the James Newman Fund, established by his family in 1984. His interest in medical history is given substance in his fascinating collection of old Apothecaries' Jars which graces the foyer of the Ernest and Marion Davis Library.

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