

Witness Statement Ref. No.

249/1

NAME OF CHILD: Adam Strain

Name: Hoshang Bharucha

Title: Dr

Present position and institution:

RETIRED since 2003.

Previous position and institution:

[As at the time of the child's death]

1995 SR Lecturer, QUB
Consultant Pathologist, RVH -
See C.V.

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:

[Identify by date and title all of those between January 1995- April 2012]

See C.V.

Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports:

[Identify by date and title all those made in relation to the child's death]

NIL

OFFICIAL USE:

List of previous statements, depositions and reports attached:

Ref:	Date:	

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANSWERING:

Please attach additional sheets if more space is required. Please identify clearly any document to which you refer or rely upon for your answer. If the document has an Inquiry reference number, e.g. Ref: 049-001-001 which is 'Chart No.1 Old Notes', then please provide that number.

If the document does not have an Inquiry reference number, then please provide a copy of the document attached to your statement.

I QUERIES ARISING OUT OF THE CORONER'S NOTE ON ADAM STRAIN'S CASE

With reference to the Coroner's note on Adam Strain's case dated 8th December 1995 (Ref: 011-025-125), please provide clarification and/or further information in respect of the following:

- (1) *"Today [8th December 1995] Dr Armour showed slides etc to Dr O'Hara and Dr Bharucha. Both stated there was clear evidence of hypoxia/anoxia/anaphylactic [sic] reaction. Those virtually are all the same thing. Both raised the question mark against the working of the anaesthetic equipment and Dr O'Hara raised the possibility of a problem that had occurred during induction of the anaesthesia which was not spotted."* (Ref: 011-025-125)
 - (a) Describe exactly what "slides etc" you were shown by Dr Armour.
 - (b) Describe the process by which you were shown these by Dr Armour, including:
 - (i) When.
 - (ii) In what circumstances, and
 - (c) Explain why, and for what purpose, you were shown slides by Dr Armour.
 - (d) In regard to Dr Alison Armour contacting you in relation to these "slides etc", then please:
 - (i) State when, by what means, and for what reason she contacted you. If she contacted you in writing, then please either provide a copy of the document or state what happened to it.
 - (ii) Describe exactly what you were asked to do, including whether you were asked to examine prepared slides or whether you had to prepare slides yourself.
 - (iii) If you were asked to prepare slides, state exactly what material you had to prepare them from, explain how you prepared the slides for examination and state where those slides are now.
 - (e) State if you were aware that Dr O'Hara had also been contacted to look at the "slides etc". If so, state whether you had any discussions with Dr O'Hara, and if so, state when you discussed the "slides etc", what you discussed, and why you discussed same.

- (f) Identify any protocols and/or guidelines that covered your involvement in Dr Armour's work in relation to a Coroner's post-mortem.
 - (g) State as fully as you can:
 - (i) All the material from Adam that was provided to you.
 - (ii) The information that was given to you, for example whether you were provided with Adam's un-fixed and fixed brain weight. If so, state what figure was given to you and by whom.
 - (iii) The documents provided to you, for example whether you had any of Adam's medical notes and records, CT scans, or the photographs that were taken sequentially of Adam's brain and, if so, what you had.
 - (h) Please explain, how if at all what was provided to you by way of material, information and documents was factored into both the views that you formed and the conclusions that you communicated to Dr. Alison Armour.
 - (i) State what comments, analysis and/or reports you provided in respect of "slides etc." that you saw and when you provided them
 - (j) State if Dr Armour is correct in saying that you "stated there was clear evidence of hypoxia/anoxia/anaphylactic [sic] reaction." If so, explain how the slides showed you "clear evidence of hypoxia/anoxia/anaphylactic [sic] reaction". If not, explain how Dr Armour is incorrect.
 - (k) Explain what you raised about the "question mark against the working of the anaesthetic equipment".
 - (l) State if you were aware that Dr O'Hara raised "the possibility of a problem that had occurred during induction of the anaesthesia which was not spotted." If so, state if you were present when Dr O'Hara raised this. If you were present, explain the circumstances and what problem he specified.
 - (m) State whether you saw a copy of Dr. Alison Armour's autopsy report and if so please give the date when you did so.
 - (n) Please find attached Dr Alison Armour's autopsy report (Ref: 011-010-034). Please comment generally on how her findings correlate with your views on the "slides etc" you were shown.
 - (o) State whether you took any notes from your examination of the slides, and if so, please provide a copy.
 - (p) State whether you made any note or record in relating to seeing these slides and your views on them, when you made it, and please furnish a copy thereof.
- (2) Describe in detail the education and training you received in fluid management (in particular hyponatraemia) through the following, providing dates and names of the institutions/bodies:

- (a) Undergraduate level
- (b) Postgraduate level
- (c) Hospital induction programmes
- (d) Continuous professional development

II ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- (3) Please state whether you are currently or have ever been related to Dr. Chitra Bharucha, who was formerly employed as a Consultant Haematologist at BCH and was Deputy Director of NIBTS 1981-2000.
- (a) If so, please describe the relationship.
- (4) State whether you were aware that Dr. Chitra Bharucha had received a witness statement from the Inquiry in relation to Adam Strain.
- (a) If so, state when and how you first became aware that Dr. Chitra Bharucha had received a witness statement from the Inquiry in relation to Adam Strain.
- (5) State whether you saw the witness statement request to Dr. Chitra Bharucha, and if so, when and where was the first occasion upon which you saw it.
- (6) State whether you were aware of the content of the witness statement request to Dr. Chitra Bharucha. If so, state when and how you first became aware of the content of the witness statement request to Dr. Chitra Bharucha.
- (7) State whether you discussed Dr. Chitra Bharucha's witness statement with her, and if so, when and where.
- (8) State when and how you first became aware that you were or may have been the "Dr. Bharucha" to whom Dr. Alison Armour showed slides relating to Adam Strain.
- (a) State what action you took from that date to inform the Inquiry or the Directorate of Legal Services that you were involved, and state the date when you did so. If you did not take any action, explain why not.
- (9) State what Dr. Chitra Bharucha did to inform the Inquiry, the Directorate of Legal Services or any other person that you were doctor involved, and state when she did so.
- (10) Provide any further points and comments that you wish to make, together with any documents, in relation to:
- (a) Record keeping
 - (b) Lessons learned from Adam's death and its effect on your work

(c) **Current 'protocols' and procedures**

(d) **Any other relevant matter**

- (l)
- (1) I have no recollection of being shown the slides referred to.
- (a) I have no recollection of being shown the slides mentioned in (1) above.
- (b) (i) &(II) I have no recollection of being shown the slides
- (c) N/A
- (d) (i,ii,iii)N/A
- (e) No, I have no recollection that Dr O'Hara was contacted.
- (f) None
- (g) N/A
- (h) N/A
- (i) N/A
- (j) N/A
- (k) I have no recollection
- (l) I have no recollection
- (m) I have no recollection of seeing the autopsy report.
- (n) Autopsy report NOT attached
- (o) I have no recollection of making any notes.
- (p) I have no recollection of making notes or a record

(2)(a) Undergraduate level only

II ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- (3) YES (a) DR CHITRA Bharucha and I have been married since 1967.
- (4) YES (a) I was informed verbally when she opened the letter informing her that she was required to provide a statement
- (5) No
- (6) No
- (7) No
- (8) When I received a special delivery letter on SATURDAY 7th April 2012 signed "pp Bernie Conlon" from the Inquiry.
- (a) Response sent to Inquiry within the stated time limit.
- (9) I do not know details.
- (10)None

THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF

Signed: 

Dated: 10 April 2012

CURRICULUM VITAE

HOSHANG BHARUCHA, MD, FRCPath.

Date of Birth: 18 November 1937, Bombay, India.

Qualifications and main appointments:

MBBS - University of Madras, India, 1965.

MD - University of Madras, India, 1970.

Member, Royal College of Pathologists, London, 1973

Fellow, Royal College of Pathologists, London, 1986.

Appointed in 1974 as **Senior Lecturer in Pathology**, Queens' University of Belfast and **Consultant Pathologist** to the Royal Group of Hospitals, Belfast, N. Ireland, UK. **Assistant Director** (Assistant Dean) School of Clinical Medicine, Queen's University of Belfast 1995-98. **Head of Department of Pathology**, Queen's University, of Belfast 2001-2003. (Retired May 2003). In addition to my work in Belfast, I was over the years involved with course development, teaching and performance evaluation in countries such as Libya, Zambia and Malaysia. Academic life demands participation in professional conferences at local and international level. During a short sabbatical in the USA I was involved with development of an automated system for cervical smear diagnosis. I helped to develop computer assisted diagnostic techniques.

Role in Medical Teaching & Evaluation

1. Major responsibility for **teaching and internal assessment** of pathology courses in second and third years. Modules in cardiovascular pathology and lung pathology with case-based learning and study guides were my main responsibility. Post-graduate teaching and evaluation of progress.
2. Co-ordinator for special study module on the **History of Medicine**.
3. **Co-ordinator** of Master of Medical Science course in Pathology of Queen's University (1989-1997) - this was a three-year course for the benefit of **overseas graduates**.
4. Internal examiner for several MSc, MD and PhD theses submitted to Queen's University.
5. Student progress council and career guidance.

Memberships of Advisory Panels and Committees:

1. Accredited assessor of laboratories with **Clinical Pathology Accreditation**, UK. Ltd
2. **National Clinical Assessment Authority (NCAA)** – trained assessor.(until 2005)
3. Member, International Committee of the **Royal College of Pathologists** (till Dec 04)
4. **Member, UK Interstitial Lung Disease Panel** (till May 2003) set up to standardise diagnostic criteria in lung disease.
5. External assessor for intensive SHO training in pathology, University of Southampton 2003-06
6. National Confidential Enquiry into Peri-operative Deaths 1993-94.
7. The Royal group of Hospitals:
 - (a) Secretary, Laboratory Division for four years
 - (b) Chairman, Laboratory, Computer Users Group 1989-91
 - (c) Finance & Equipment Committee 1989-92
 - (d) Advisory Committee to CMO, N.Ireland, computerisation in gynaecological cytology.