

Mini CV Professor RA Risdon

I qualified in Medicine at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School in 1962 and started in Pathology in 1963, receiving training in Haematology, Chemical Pathology and Medical Microbiology, as well as in Histopathology. I have been a Consultant Histopathologist since 1972, practicing general histopathology at Addenbrooke's and the Royal London Hospitals. I was Senior Lecturer in Paediatric Pathology at Great Ormond Street (GOS) from 1972-5 and Professor from 1985 until my retirement from NHS practice in 2004. During that time I qualified as MRCPATH and later as FRCPath, as well as completing my MD thesis in 1972.

My special interests were paediatric and renal pathology, and I have published approximately 100 peer-reviewed papers in medical journals.

For the past two decades I have had a particular interest in sudden death in the first year of life from both natural and unnatural causes. The department at Great Ormond Street that I used to head now does approximately 400 examinations/annum and a quarter of all autopsies on Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI) occurring in the UK. Consultants from the department have made a number of important contributions to the medical literature over the past few years to improve our understanding of SUDI; we work closely with Project Indigo run by the Metropolitan Police, and both my fellow Consultants and I have helped with a manual of police procedures entitled 'Effective Interpretation of Child Homicide and Suspicious Deaths' edited by David Marshall QPM MSc, which will, I suspect, become a standard text.

I have taken a particular responsibility for infant homicides including those due to inflicted injuries and non-accidental head injuries; because of the need for this service I took the Diploma in Medical Jurisprudence in 1994, took further specialist training in Forensic Medicine, and was accredited with the Home Office. To date, I am the only paediatric pathologist dually qualified as a forensic pathologist. I was granted Honorary Consultant status at GOS so that I can continue to perform autopsies using the specialist autopsy, laboratory and radiological facilities available at this tertiary referral hospital. I also became a partner in Forensic Pathology Services. I remain up to date with CPD through the RCPATH and undergo annual professional appraisal at GOS.

I continue to teach and lecture to a variety of medical and non-medical audiences. I was a member of the joint Working Party under Baroness Kennedy on the management of SUDI; I am a Committee Member of FSID and am currently RCPATH representative to the NSPCC. I contributed to the CPS guide lines on the investigation and prosecution of paediatric inflicted head injuries. I have been presented with an ACPO Investigation of Child Death Lifetime Award for my services.

Whilst my work for FPS is confined to paediatric cases, my experience in this field is probably unrivaled, and I have made a significant contribution to the way that these cases are dealt with a post-mortem.