Curriculum Vitae

Emeritus Professor Ian Cooke

Ian Cooke was born and educated in Sydney, Australia and graduated in Medicine from Sydney University in 1958. After training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Prince Alfred/King George V Memorial Hospital he went to London in 1962 and obtained his MRCOG and later was awarded the Fellowship. Research in steroid methodology in Aberdeen was followed by a U.K. Medical Research Council Sir Henry Wellcome Travelling Fellowship to Stockholm for feto-maternal metabolism and a National Institutes of Health Fellowship in Cleveland, Ohio, USA in reproductive biology. He returned to the U.K. as Senior Lecturer at the Welsh National School of Medicine in 1968 and was then appointed to the Chair of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Sheffield in 1972, a post from which he retired in 2000 and was appointed Emeritus Professor.

During his time in Sheffield he developed his interests in combining laboratory reproductive endocrine research with clinical gynaecology. This led to his becoming the first sub-specialist in Reproductive Medicine in the country, when subspecialisation began. Within that discipline he was most interested in infertility, both male and female and his Department published extensively on ovulation, tubal surgery and andrology.

He worked with the World Health Organisation over many years developing a programme in infertility and travelled extensively in South America and the former USSR advising on activities. He was a member of the Cell Board of the Medical Research Council and Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, as well as a Council member for many years. He taught in India for the RCOG and was awarded a Sims Black Travelling Professorship to Zimbabwe and South Africa, later being Simpson Orator. He was an inaugural member of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and Chairman of the British Fertility Society from 1996 to 1999. He was elected President from 2001-4. He has been European representative on the Editorial Board of Fertility and Sterility, a member of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology Capri Group, which examines evidence-based aspects of reproductive medicine and a founding member of the Editorial Board of Human Fertility. He was a founder Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. He is an invited Life Member of the American Society of Human Reproductive Medicine and has recently been elected as an Honorary Member of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology.

Following retirement he has chaired a number of national multiprofessional groups, publishing a strategy for future reproductive health care services for survivors of childhood cancer, the other studies being one for developing a national controlled study for follow up of ICSI children and another for quality assurance in Assisted Reproduction. He has recently been reviewing surgical outcomes in a large randomized controlled study of icodextrin, an anti-adhesive agent in abdominal surgery. He has had long associations with patient support groups in infertility and endometriosis.

He spent 6 years as the United Kingdom representative on the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) and chaired the Education Committee, which was responsible for the Newsletter, the website and for running educational workshops, in Panama, Costa Rica and Guatemala, Budapest, Cairo, and Tartu, Estonia. He is currently the Director of Education of IFFS and ran a programme of Workshops in Uruguay, Phillipines, Romania and Nigeria in 2005 and Bulgaria, Vietnam and shortly Burkina Faso in 2006. He is in discussion with Slovenia, China, Sudan, Colombia, Venezuela, Russia, Iran, Sri Lanka, Jordan and the Pan-Arab Society for 2007. He is also working on a low-cost IVF programme with WHO and IFFS in collaboration with Profs. Alan Trounson, of Melbourne and Outi Hovata of Stockholm, as well as a strategy for global e-learning in reproductive medicine with the University of Bristol, U.K and international collaborators in medical publishing and software developers for multimedia education.

He is currently Church Secretary of St Andrew's URC in Sheffield and is involved in local inner city regeneration projects and dialogue with the Muslim community.

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