

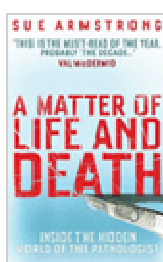
## A Matter of Life & Death: Conversations with Pathologists

In 2008 the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland Society commissioned a book by Sue Armstrong entitled "A Matter of Life and Death", which is available to Society members at a great discount of £7.79 + P&P – order forms are available on the Society's website [www.pathsoc.org](http://www.pathsoc.org) - it's a great read!

Now, with the generous support of Genentech Inc, a web archive of the entire set of interviews has now been published on-line – please see Newsletter below for further details.



Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010



### Conversations with Pathologists

An online archive produced by Sue Armstrong & Olivia Bennett

Following the success of Sue Armstrong's book *A Matter of Life and Death*, The Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and Genentech Inc have supported the launch of *Conversations with Pathologists*, an online archive of the complete collection of 23 interviews conducted by Sue Armstrong.

In publishing her interviews with pathologists working in a wide range of specialized fields in the USA, UK, Italy, South America and South Africa, Sue Armstrong aimed to challenge the popular misperception of pathologists as "doctors of death" and to raise awareness of the vital role they play in our lives as key members of the health services. The conversations explore the homes the pathologists grew up in, when and how their interest in pathology was kindled, who have been their mentors, heroes, role models, what their working lives entail, and how their work on the front line of disease and death has affected their philosophy of life. The scope of the interviews, as one review put it, makes them "of great use to those who seek a broader, more informed view of pathology and its practitioners." (*British Medical Journal*)



Only about half of the interviews undertaken are featured in the book, and even these had to be judiciously cut, because there was a limit to the length of the book. Moreover, as the book's audience is a general one, the more detailed scientific discussions were sometimes curtailed. *Conversations with Pathologists* provides readers with online access to the full rich collection of conversations in all their detail, each running to its original length. There is plenty to fascinate the non-specialist, while medical students and professionals will find a wealth of material to stimulate discussion on new directions and research possibilities, as well as fascinating background on the history and development of the profession, all in the context of personal reflection and experience. The archive contains the unedited transcripts, and the question and answer format helps to tease out the complex science behind the work of many pathologists, and in the process "clarifies some triumphs of discovery as well as coughing up some astonishing curiosities." (*Literary Review*)

"[The interviews are] in turn enlightening, thoughtful, horrifying and heartening [and] explore philosophical, ethical and practical issues... [They] will appeal to a broad readership: specialists, non-specialists and those in-between, will find much to interest them." (*Oral History Journal*)

To help you make the most of this extensive resource, there is a brief profile of each interviewee, and the content of every interview has been summarised section by section, with direct links to the full transcript. You can also explore *Conversations with Pathologists* by theme, or by disease entity. The themes menu takes you to a brief discussion of key topics, with a selection of quotes and a list of relevant interviews.

*Conversations with Pathologists* was created with the generous financial support of Genentech Inc and the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and is powered by i-Path Diagnostics Ltd.

## T H E M E S



Many themes and topics are covered in *Conversations with Pathologists*, and these are listed below.

- Alder Hey
- Attributes of a Pathologist
- Autopsy
- Children
- Dogma
- Expert Witness
- History of Pathology
- International Perspective
- Legislation and Regulation
- Life, death and the hereafter
- Mentors and Influences
- Motivation
- New Technologies
- Relationship with clinicians
- Research versus Clinical Work

## I N T E R V I E W E E S



Interviewees from around the globe took part in this project. They include

- Elaine Jaffe
- Derrick Pounder
- Nicholas Wright
- Bill Bass
- Sue Black
- Kumarasen Cooper
- Maesha Deheragoda
- Paola Domizio
- Christopher Fletcher
- Francisco Gonzáles-Crussi
- Dhiren Govender
- Richard Hewlett
- David Levison
- Sebastian Lucas
- Kenneth Hillan

and more...



## Conversations with Pathologists

Web: <http://www.pathsoc.org/conversations>  
Email: [conversations@pathsoc.org](mailto:conversations@pathsoc.org)