Nice Work if You Can Get It

life as a paediatric cardiac surgeon

Martin Elliott
37th Gresham Professor of Physic
Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at UCL
Consultant Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon
GOSH Charity Clinical Ambassador
The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children
my swan song
nice
if you can get it
work
The Role
>3500 individual anomalies

>2500 individual procedures
+/- intensive care

pregnancy → post-natal → MDT → surgery → follow-up

surgeon → cardiologist → surgeon

MDT → Sx → Rx

Rx

Sx

MDT

follow-up

RX

Sx
nice work
Getting There
Medical school

My Training

compete

4-5y

17y
My Training

4-5y

medical school

20y
Been To America
1971, CHATTANOOGA, TN
these guys could do anything
My Training

22y

4-5y

medical school

HO

compete
My Training

- medical school
- HO
- anatomy
- 4-5y
- FRCS (pt1)
- GMC registration

My Training

4-5y

medical school  HO  anatomy  SHO

24y

compete

Southampton

New Forest

Lymington
My Training

4-5y

medical school  HO  anatomy  SHO  reg GS  reg A&E  reg CT  reg Plas  reg CT

compete

25y

FRCS (pt1)  FRCS (pt2)

GMC registration
George Alberti

Mike Holden
My Training

4-5y

medical school HO anatomy SHO reg GS reg A&E reg CT reg Plas reg CT academic SR Fellow GOSH

33y

FRCS (pt1) FRCS (pt2) Mike Holden

GMC registration

compete
Humility
Jaroslav Stark

Marc de Leval
My Training

4-5y
medical school

17y
FRCS (pt1)

GMC registration

12 years p.g.
FRCS (pt2)

MD

compete

34y
The Children & their Families
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqNDib_EcHA
Feeling 50:50
One Child
sharing bad news
is now rare
Changing Times
Christmas 1983
Prostaglandin E1
everything has improved, but especially ICU care
Central Station, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
and then we operated, all day and often all evening
Accountability
learning the violin in public

against the clock
Being There
there are other ways to skin a cat
On Call
Innovation
relentless pursuit of excellence & open to ideas
“it was a relief finally to get here”
Internationalism
Learn/Teach/Learn
Kit Armstrong and Alfred Brendel
Harmony
The Scrub Nurse

“Don’t give me what I ask for, give me what I need.”
The Perfusionist
Management
what **personal skills** do you need?

- communication
- decision making
- situational awareness
- leadership
- adaptability
- assertiveness
- mission (task) analysis

2011
NHS Staff (2013) % of WTE

- Nurses: 30%
- Doctors: 10%
- Scientific and technical: 13%
- Support to clinical staff: 28%
- Administration: 9%
- Property maintenance: 5%
- Ambulance staff: 2%
- Managers: 3%

Total WTE: 1.03 million
Crossing to the Dark Side
“The one outcome that is never measured in the NHS is the outcome of what politicians do”

Polly Toynbee
Demand and Capacity
“If it is the one thing in work that makes you happy, the one thing that makes you get out of bed on a cold Monday morning, then do it.

But if there is something else that makes you equally happy or even just a bit less happy, do that instead.”
“The relationships have changed. You are now much less respected as a surgeon, you are more managed, more controlled by others. The pressure for perfection is massive and every minor error is scrutinised often by people who haven’t a clue how hard it is to do what you do. Anyone doing this surgery understands how tight the margins are; placing a stitch less than a millimetre away from the ideal place may have devastating consequences.
This is surgery which demands a very high level of technical skill, and the ability to perform that skill under scrutiny and against the clock. It is tough. Yet you’re paid the same as a dermatologist who never gets out of bed and who has so much less stress.
On top of that there are so many system problems, particularly with lack of capacity to meet demand that you have to spend half your time managing disappointment".
“We need to care deeply about our kids”
nice and I got it work
R Sharrock MSc

“You will never get into medical school, and even if you do, you will not get through it”
do nothing at the right time
Current Training

- Compete 4-5y
- Medical school

- Compete
- > 9 years pg
- Certificate of Completion of Training
- GMC registration

- Compete
- Extra years
- Higher degree? Work overseas?

- Compete
- Consultant
- FRCS (CT)

- Compete
- CCT

Extra years
PhD please

1

2

5

paediatrics?

cardiology?

int radiol?

management?

MJE = 11 years

PhD please