

British Society of Gastroenterology: Incoming President 1992–93

Michael Hobsley was born in India in 1929 and educated at La Martinere College, Calcutta, and St Joseph's College, Nain i Tal. He went up to Cambridge in 1945, reading natural sciences for a year and then switching to medicine. His clinical training was at the Middlesex Hospital where he qualified MB, BChir in 1951.

After his house jobs he spent two years in the RAMC, in Germany and in Belgium, and then began a series of junior jobs, mostly at the Middlesex but also at the Whittington Hospital, before being appointed a senior lecturer and honorary consultant surgeon to the Middlesex in 1969. Subsequent promotions up the academic ladder took him to professorial status in 1975 and directorship of the Department of Surgical Studies at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in 1983. With the merger of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School and University College, he became head of the Department of Surgery of University College and Middlesex School of Medicine in 1988.

Much of Professor Hobsley's earlier research was in the field of metabolism and respiratory physiology, but a year (1965–6) that he spent mostly with Bill Silen in the surgical department of the late Dr Dunphy in San Francisco directed his attention towards gastroenterology in general and gastric secretion and emptying in particular. These areas have

formed the main thrust of his scientific endeavour since that time, his papers dealing mainly with the physiology and measurement of gastric secretion, the effects of vagotomy upon gastric secretion, and the sequelae of operations upon the stomach designed to reduce gastric secretion. As a practising surgeon, his clinical interests have been wide but from the gastroenterological point of view they have focused primarily on the stomach and the salivary glands.

In recent years he has developed a particular interest in medical education, with reference not only to what is taught to our undergraduate medical students but also to how it should be taught. The development of an algorithmic approach to surgery and of computer assisted learning including video techniques for distance learning have occupied much of his recent activities.

Medical writing and publishing is an important activity: he has published more than a hundred scientific papers and written two books, one a textbook of surgery on algorithmic lines and the other an atlas of parotidectomy. He is also

a joint editor of two series of books, on physiological principles of medicine and current surgical practice. His main hobby is cricket and he still plays the occasional game.

