



Royal College of Physicians

Dr Ian Barker Biography

Ian Barker is a solicitor with 30 years of experience in healthcare law. Formerly a partner at Hempsons, he has been a senior solicitor at the Medical Defence Union for 18 years, specialising amongst other things in criminal and regulatory matters affecting doctors and other healthcare professionals.

Over the course of his career, Ian has acted for many hundreds of doctors in police investigations, including more than 100 cases involving the deaths of patients, and has extensive experience of representing doctor's in General Medical Council Proceedings.

He has successfully defended doctors prosecuted for homicide offences, acting in a leading manslaughter case of *R v Prentice & Sullman* (involving intrathecal administration of vincristine), the trial of Dr Dave Moor for murder, the so called 'wrong kidney' case, and more recently the double manslaughter prosecution of a GP following inadvertent overdoses of morphine to 2 patients. He is a regular commentator and lecturer on medical crime, principally to medical and legal audiences. He has also lectured to senior police officers in England and Scotland on the investigation of serious crime in a medical environment, and has been involved recent talks at the RSM about manslaughter and the problems for doctors, and participated in Kevin Fong's Radio documentary 'Junior doctors: a matter of life and death'.

Presentation Summary

Topic: Standing up to scrutiny: the media, the public, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service

The talk will outline the difficulties for clinicians faced with criminal allegations, with particular emphasis on Gross Negligence Manslaughter. It will guide through the police investigation and CPS investigation and evaluation processes, with information about how best to deal with the problems and survive the ordeal.