Patient Safety First – Attitude or Platitude?

Dr W Harrop---Griffiths

The focus on patient safety that has always been at the heart of good anaesthetic care came to heightened public view around the turn of the millennium, when government health departments started loudly proclaiming that patient safety was their undying passion. While putting patient safety first is without doubt an appropriate starting – and ending – point for those providing healthcare, many worthwhile initiatives that aimed to promote patient safety were accompanied by others that had little evidential basis. In a wide---ranging and at times frankly cynical talk, Dr Harrop---Griffiths will sift through the luggage compartment of the patient safety bandwagon and will pluck out some examples of high quality safety initiatives and others of humbug, smoke and mirrors. He will conclude that patient safety has its start and finish at the interface between patients and the healthcare professionals caring for them, and that systems need to be redesigned to make this interaction as safe as possible. Registrants who wish to own a copy of the presentation should email Dr Harrop---Griffiths on harropg@mac.com after the lecture.