



## **Dr Richard Sawyer MBBCh FRCA FIPP FFPMRCA LLM Consultant in Pain Medicine**

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<b>Name:</b>	Dr Richard J Sawyer	
<b>Address:</b>	c/o Pain Expert Limited	
<b>Qualifications:</b>	MB BCh (Wits)	1989
	Diploma in Anaesthesia of the College of Medicine of South Africa	1992
	Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists	1997
	Fellow of Interventional Pain Practice (World Institute of Pain)	2005
	Fellow of the Faculty of Pain Medicine Royal College of Anaesthetists	2007
	Masters in Medical Law, De Montford University	2019

### **NHS consultant employment:**

Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	2002 - 2013
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2013 - present

### **Medicolegal practice:**

Nuffield Manor Hospital, Oxford  
10 Harley Street Consulting Rooms, London

**GMC number:** 3640384

**GMC status:** Registered with a licence to practice.  
Revalidated in 2021.  
Annual appraisals completed

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**Professional qualifications:** I qualified MBBCh at University of the Witwatersrand in 1989. After qualifying in South Africa, I spent 2 years as a general practitioner in both rural and urban communities. I moved to the UK in 1994 and was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (FRCA) in 1997 having passed the required examinations. I was elected a Fellow of Interventional Pain Practice of the World Institute of Pain (FIPP) in 2005. I was granted Foundation Fellowship of the Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (FFPMRCA) in October 2007.

**NHS Consultant appointments:** I was appointed as a Consultant in Anaesthetics and Pain Management at Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust in 2002 until 2013, after which I was appointed to a consultant position in Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. I have had a significant chronic pain out-patient pain management clinical role since 2002 and have combined this with a regular anaesthetic commitment. My current anaesthesia commitment is for complex cancer surgery and transplant anaesthesia.

**NHS pain management practice:** My NHS duties have included the management of chronic pain at the Plymouth Pain Management Centre and then at Oxford Pain Management Centre. Both NHS services are interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary combining the services of medical consultants, specialist nurses, clinical psychologists and physiotherapists. I continue to work for the NHS on a part-time basis.

**Specialist medical interests:** I have extensive experience in the management of a wide range of chronic painful conditions including those that can result from personal injury. This experience includes clinical problems such as mechanical low back pain, complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS), chronic pain syndromes, neuropathic pain, thoracic spinal pain, cervical spinal pain & whiplash, shoulder pain, chronic pelvic pain, chronic pain after surgery & trauma, and complex opioid drug management cases.

I have an interest in functional neurological disorders.

I have experience in interventional pain management including a range of injections, radiofrequency denervation techniques, spinal cord stimulation (SCS) and intrathecal drug delivery (ITDD).

**Educational & training roles:** In addition to an active involvement with local training & education, I have presented at regional, national and international meetings.

I am an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Oxford.

I am an examiner for both the World Institute of Pain and the Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

### **Masters in Medical Law**

I completed a Masters in Medical Law degree through De Montford University in Leicester in 2019. This degree was conferred in January 2019 with merit.

I undertook the following modules: Clinical Negligence, Expert Evidence, Professional Regulation, Philosophy of Healthcare, Consent.

My dissertation was on the 'Role of fMRI in chronic pain related litigation'. The dissertation was awarded a distinction.

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### **Membership of professional organisations:**

- General Medical Council
- Royal College of Anaesthetists
- Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Royal College of Anaesthetists
- British Medical Association
- Medical & Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS) (Clinical and medicolegal indemnity cover)
- International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP)

### **Positions of responsibility:**

I was clinical lead for the Pain Management service (Plymouth Hospitals) from 2007 to 2013. During this time I was actively involved with NHS management for local commissioning of services.

I have been a faculty member of a number national and international meetings in advanced pain management. I am a faculty member of the annual Expert Witness Course.

I am the Faculty Tutor (Pain) for the trainees in the Oxford region.

I have acted for the World Institute of Pain as an examiner in the examinations for the Fellowship of Interventional Pain Practice.

I was appointed to the Court of Examiners for the Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (FFPMRCA) in October 2014.

I examine candidates bi-annually for the FFPMRCA examination.

Since July 2020 I have been the lead examiner for the clinical component of the FFPMRCA examination. This requires commissioning and compiling appropriate and relevant questions for the FFPMRCA examination.

### **Medicolegal report writing experience:**

I have been preparing expert evidence for the Court in matters of personal injury and medical negligence since 2005. I currently examine between 2 - 4 claimants each month. My reports most commonly relate to complex cases with symptoms of chronic pain persisting beyond the expected healing period associated with much more disability than might be expected.

I receive instructions from both claimant and defendants in a ratio of 40:60.

### **Courtroom experience and provision of oral evidence:**

I have presented medical evidence at Coroner's courts on five occasions in the last 10 years.

### **Recent Medicolegal Training and Courses attended:**

- Annual Cambridge Medicolegal Conference 2012/2013/2015/2016/2018/2021
- Pain Expert Limited Conference, October 2016.
- Pain Expert Limited Conference, October 2017.
- Pain Expert Limited Conference, October 2018.
- Pain Expert Limited Conference, October 2021.
- Oxford CPD course (presented "The role of Expert Evidence"), September 2021.
- Expert Witness Course London, January 2022.
- IASP World Pain Congress, September 2022.

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### Publications:

1. **Sawyer RJ**, Richmond MN, Jarratt J, Hickey J. Peripheral Nerve Lesions in Anaesthesia. A Review Article. *Anaesthesia* 2000 Oct; 55(10): 980-91.
2. **Sawyer R.J.**, McCartney C. Anaesthetic considerations in the management of the patient with advanced malignancy. *Current Anaesthesia and Critical Care*. 2001. **12**, 302-308
3. **Sawyer RJ**, Turnbull D, Richmond MN, Hamnegard CH, Mills GH. Assessment of Diaphragm Function After Stellate Ganglion Block Using Magnetic Stimulation. *Anaesthesia*. 2002 Jan; **57** (1): 70-75
4. **Sawyer RJ**. Case report; Temporary Bilateral Blindness following Acute Lidocaine Toxicity. *Anesthesia and Analgesia* 2002; 95:224-6
5. **Sawyer R.J.** and Kerr K (Editors). *Guidance for Trainees on "Organising a Year Abroad" from the GAT committee*. June 2002
6. Brull R, McCartney CJL, **Sawyer RJ**, von Schroeder HP. The indications and applications of interscalene brachial plexus block for surgery about the shoulder. *Acute Pain*, 6 (2004) pp. 57-77
7. Brill S, McCartney C, **Sawyer RJ**, Chan V. Intra-articular ketamine analgesia following knee arthroscopy: a dose finding study. *The Pain Clinic* 2005: 17(1); 25-29
8. Margetts L, **Sawyer RJ**. Transdermal Drug delivery systems. *Continuing Education in Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine*. 2007: Vol 7 (5) 171-176.
9. **Sawyer RJ**, Barr B. Post traumatic fibromyalgia and litigation: a difficult Rubicon for a patient to cross. *Pain News* Spring 2009
10. **Sawyer RJ**. Pitfalls in prescribing opioids for chronic pain management. *PAJF Pharmacy News*. (2012)
11. **Sawyer RJ**. Examining for the Faculty of Pain Medicine. *Faculty News Letter* Summer 2015.
12. Ponton R, **Sawyer RJ**. Opioid prescribing in general practice use of a two-stage review tool to identify and assess high dose prescribing. *British Journal of Pain* 2018: 12(3); 171-182
13. **Sawyer R** Consent and the ever-present threat of clinical negligence litigation in pain medicine. *Transmitter* Spring 2019
14. **Sawyer R**. Letter to the Editor in *Clinical Medicine Journal* 2021: Functional disorders and pain.

### Reviewer:

I have acted as a peer reviewer for articles submitted to the British Medical Journal, the Cochrane Collaboration and the Journal of Pain for the British Pain Society.

**Richard Sawyer**  
**Updated September 2022**