

IN THEIR HANDS: Q&A

What's it like to be a Doctor? Anaesthetist Kit Eatock helps us find out.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO BE A DOCTOR?

That's a simple answer. I enjoyed science, biology and natural history as a child and it may sound cheesy but I wanted to help other people to enjoy their lives without illness. It was very much a vocation when I trained and remained so during my life as a doctor despite constraints of living in a complicated society.

WHAT IS THE BEST AND WORST THING ABOUT BEING A DOCTOR?

The best thing is feeling that all the years of studying - it is a lifelong activity - can be applied to make small or huge changes to people's lives. I usually worked in a team of medical professionals who always strive for excellence.

There are problems to overcome like long hours, sleep deprivation and failures, for example a few patients don't always respond to the treatment, but the worst thing is sometimes feeling frustrated. The system we work in can feel constrained sometimes by non-medical priorities.

DO YOU SOMETIMES FEEL ANXIOUS WHEN WORKING IN A HOSPITAL?

Good question and the answer is definitely "Yes". However, the long period of training equipped me with many skills and knowledge and asking for help is always an option which I hope everyone feels able to do!

HOW LONG WERE YOU A DOCTOR AND WHAT SORT OF DOCTOR ARE YOU?

I've been a doctor for thirty-seven years! After my six years medical school training I went on to specialise in anaesthesia for a further seven years. It is a high-risk specialty which covers CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation), Intensive Care as well as routine surgery. Later, I was involved in Obstetric anaesthesia which has both mother and sometimes new-born babies to look after.

WHAT IS THE WEIRDEST THING YOU HAVE SEEN IN YOUR JOB?

Early in my career I worked in a hospital in Epping Forest and on hot days we opened the door. One day a snake slithered into the operating theatre!



WHAT'S THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

It can be hard to explain to people what's wrong with them sometimes - communicating the nature of complicated medical illnesses and the risks involved with the treatment we're offering. It is a challenge to explain the information without overwhelming the patient and yet not leave out small, important details.

Thanks to Sadie, Katie, Marina, Isabella, Freya and Lucy for the questions.
And thank you to Kit for the answers!

CAREERS IN MEDICINE...

Did you know, there are over a million people (full-time equivalent) working in the NHS? There are a whole range of roles. If you're inspired to pursue a career in medicine, there are lots of different jobs and specialisms, including:

Doctors, Surgeons, Dentistry, Midwifery, Pharmacy, Nursing, Psychology, Paramedic, Public health, Working with children, Working with the elderly

