

MEDICO-LEGAL CURRICULUM VITAE

**Brian C Sommerlad MB BS FRCSEng FRCSEd(Hon) DSc(Med Sc)(Hon)UCL
FRCPCH FRCSLT(Hon)**

I was appointed as a Consultant Plastic Surgeon in 1978 and my current position is Honorary Consultant Plastic Surgeon at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London and Consultant Plastic Surgeon at the St Andrew's Centre, Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford. I was previously Consultant Plastic Surgeon at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London and Director of Cleft Services at the North Thames Cleft Lip and Palate Unit, a twin-site unit based at both hospitals.

I continue to operate regularly at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, The Portland Hospital, London, Nuffield Health Brentwood Hospital, Brentwood, Essex, Springfield Hospital, Chelmsford, Essex and consult at these hospitals and at 10 Harley Street, London W1G 9PF.

I am also a Visiting Plastic Surgeon at Ospedale Santo Bono, Napoli, Italy.

I am a Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons of England, The Royal Society of Medicine (*President of Plastic Surgery Section 1985-86*) and The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, and Honorary Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, The College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka and The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

I have recently been awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science (DSc (Med Sc)) by University College London.

I have been given Honorary Membership of:

British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (*previously called the British Association of Plastic Surgeons of which I was President in 1998*)
Craniofacial Society of Great Britain and Ireland (*previously called the Craniofacial Society of Great Britain of which I was President in 1996-7*)

I am a Full Member of the following medical societies:

American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association
Association Francophone des Fentes Faciales
British Medical Association
European Association of Plastic Surgeons (EURAPS)
Royal Society of Medicine
and several other national and international organisations.

I have attended:

Bond Solon courses on "*Excellence in Written Evidence.*"
BMA course on "*Key issues for doctors as expert witnesses*" 2017.
Course at The Chartered Institute of Arbitration "*Medico-legal expert witness essentials course*" 2018."

I am also:

A Full Member of The Academy of Experts

An Expert - 1st tier listing - Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

An Individual member of the Expert Witness Institute (EWI)

SYNOPSIS OF EXPERT WORK

I currently prepare 250-300 medical reports per annum. During the Covid pandemic, many followed remote consultation by video and I continue to see some clients remotely but prefer face-to-face appointments if possible.

As a consultant plastic surgeon, requests for my opinion fall into three main groups:-

- 1) Consequences (especially scarring) following accidental injury.
- 2) Assessment of scarring from alleged torture. I use the criteria of the Istanbul convention for torture related cases to identify a victim of torture for asylum and immigration cases. I have been an expert witness in the International Criminal Court in The Hague in such a case.
- 3) The appropriateness of treatment and quality of care in medical negligence cases. I have a special interest in congenital deformity and especially surgery to cleft lip and palate and have been involved in several medical negligence cases in these areas.

I would estimate that about 90% of the reports I prepare are on behalf of the claimant, 8% on behalf of defendants and 2% are joint requests.