

CONSULTANCY GROUP

'Forensic science - a role for consultants?'

Forensic is derived from the Latin *forum*, and refers to any public discussion, although it is most familiarly used in relation to courts of law. The breadth of activity covered by members of the Consultancy Group is diverse, but many apply their scientific knowledge in a range of forensic areas. Various speakers will describe their experiences in diverse areas of forensic science, including acting as expert witnesses and defending their work under cross-examination.

The role of an expert witness is to assist a public discussion of technical matters within their expertise. For example, every day we all depend on the proper functioning of equipment around us, or products meeting appropriate quality standards, but failures may have major consequences leading to disputes between affected parties. In such situations, the services of suitably qualified experts are crucial in gathering, assessing and presenting evidence. Similar skills are required by forensic experts in criminal cases to ensure that there is no miscarriage of justice.

Outside courts of law, large planning developments have environmental implications to meet the increasingly demanding requirements of planning authorities and legislation. Expert support from consultants contributes to environmental statements and expert witness contributions to public inquiries, where reconciling science and subjective opinion can be a challenge.

The overview of such capabilities and challenges across the wide field of forensic science will provide valuable background to consultants and also show prospective expert witnesses what is expected from them in some of the areas of opportunity.

Programme for the Meeting on 6 May 2009

Time	in the Fish Room, RSC, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London	
11.00	Registration	Coffee available
11.25	Chairman's introduction	
11.30	Chemical evidence and miscarriages of justice	Dr J B F Lloyd
12.00	Forensic engineering: environmental and stress corrosion cracking of polymers	Dr P Lewis
12.30	Discussion	
12.45	Luncheon	Networking opportunities
13.45	RSC-CG Annual General Meeting	
14.15	Alcohol back-calculations: are they valid?	Dr A Belfield
14.35	The accidental expert - Smarties and other problems	Dr W Edwards
14.55	Environmental forensics vs Nimbys going Bananas	Dr R Barratt
15.15	Discussion followed by 'Open forum'	Contributions from members
16.00	Close of meeting	Tea and coffee available

CPD certificates will be provided on request.

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Registration for the Meeting on Wednesday 6 May 2009

Registration fees (including lunch and refreshments are:

RSC Consultancy Group (RSC-CG) and JCF members	£35
Other members of the RSC	£40
Non-members	£60

If you wish to attend the meeting, please complete the registration form (photocopies are acceptable for additional delegates), using **BLOCK CAPITALS**, and return it with your remittance (one cheque acceptable for more than one delegate) to the address given below.

Registration Form

I and guest(s) wish to attend the RSC-CG meeting on Wednesday 6 May 2009 on:

'Forensic science - a role for consultants?'

Name (and title)	I am / am not* a member of the CG/JCF (Please state CG or JCF member, e.g. IoP)
Address	I am / am not* a member of the RSC (Membership No.) Is a receipt required? Yes / No*
Signature	Is a CPD attendance certificate required? Yes / No* * Delete as appropriate.

I enclose remittance of £..... Receipts and CPD certificates will be available at the meeting
Please note that the RSC-CG is not registered for VAT.

Cheques to be made payable to 'RSC Consultancy Group'.

Please return your completed form to: Dr R Barratt
31 Ashby Road
Daventry
Northamptonshire
NN11 9QD
Email: .r.s.barratt@open.ac.uk

Cancellations

We regret that refunds cannot be made unless written cancellation has been received more than two weeks prior to the meeting. Substitutions can, however, be made. If the substitute is in a different registration category, the difference in registration fee is payable.

If, exceptionally, a delegate registers without enclosing payment (e.g. late registration by facsimile), payment will be due at the meeting. If the delegate fails to attend the meeting this will be deemed to be a cancellation without due notice and payment will be due within two weeks of the meeting.