

AvMA 36th Annual Clinical Negligence Conference

Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds

19th-20th March 2026

Welcome Event Evening of
18th March 2026

#ACNC2026



Book your place to attend **the** annual event for clinical negligence specialists!

Join us at the Royal Armouries Mueseum on 19-20 March 2026 for the 36th AvMA Annual Clinical Negligence Conference (ACNC), **the** event for clinical negligence specialists! The very best medical and legal experts will ensure that you stay up to date with all the key issues, developments and policies in clinical negligence and medical law. The programme this year will have a **focus on neurology and neurosurgery** whilst also covering many other key medico-legal topics at such an important time for clinical negligence practitioners.

Networking is also a big part of the ACNC experience. On the evening of Wednesday 18th March we will be holding the conference Welcome Event at the Sky Lounge, Doubletree by Hilton Leeds and the Mid-Conference Dinner is on the evening of Thursday 19th March at the Royal Armouries Museum.

As well as providing you with a top quality, thought provoking, learning and networking experience, the success of the conference helps AvMA to maintain its position as an essential force in promoting patient safety and justice.

REDUCED RATES AVAILABLE FOR:

Concession rates are available to paralegals, trainee legal executives, junior solicitors and barristers. Junior solicitors and barristers must be 3 years PQE or less. This rate is not available to Fellows of CILEX. Multiple booking discount: 15% off the total amount when you book 4 or more delegate places (including concession rates). To qualify for the multiple booking discount of 4 delegates or more, all bookings must be made at the same time

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Accommodation

MICE Concierge will again be the official accommodation and concierge service for the conference, giving conference attendees better rates and choice of hotels. Once you have booked your conference place, [please book your accommodation](#) at one of the official room blocks for the event.

For personal assistance please contact:

Oliver Pettyfer
+44 (0)1438 908770
oliver.pettyfer@miceconcierge.com

CPD Accreditation

	Thursday 19th March	Friday 20th March	Total
Bar Council, APIL			
SRA competencies	A & B	A & B	-

Conference Documentation

All delegates will receive the online conference documentation on the afternoon of Wednesday 18 March.



ACNC Social Functions

ACNC2026 Welcome Event

Wednesday 18th March 2026

19.00 – 23.00

Sky Lounge, Doubletree by Hilton Leeds

Get your #ACNC2026 off to a great start by attending our Welcome Event on the evening of Wednesday 18 March. We have exclusive hire of the Sky Lounge, Doubletree by Hilton Leeds. Enjoy an evening of networking, before the ACNC begins the following day.

£55+VAT

To book your place at the Welcome Event or Mid-Conference Dinner please add the tickets on the registration form.

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ACNC2026 Mid-Conference Dinner

Thursday 19th March 2026

19.30 – 01.00

Royal Armouries Museum

The Mid-Conference Dinner will take place on the evening of Thursday 19 March. The event will commence with a drinks reception at 19.30 before a three course meal and entertainment.

£88 + VAT

To book your place at the Welcome Event or Mid-Conference Dinner please add the tickets on the registration form.

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#ACNC2026 Programme

Thursday 19th March 2026

Plenary morning sessions kindly sponsored by:

12
King's Bench Walk

08.30 Registration and refreshments

||| SERJEANTS' INN

09.30 Chair's Introduction & AvMA Update

PAUL WHITEING
Chief Executive, AvMA

09.45 Keynote Address:
Confessions of a Brain Surgeon – Discovering the lessons that can be learnt from a lifetime dedicated to neurosurgery

DR HENRY MARSH CBE
Neurosurgeon & Author

10.45 Plenary Address:
Review into clinical negligence costs as part of the NHS 10 Year Health Plan for England

Speaker to be confirmed

11.30 Refreshments

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11.55 Parallel Lectures

Choose one from the options, right

13.05 Lunch

PARALLEL LECTURES: A - D

A Parkinson's Disease and Medication

Speaker to be confirmed

B Neurological Conditions - General Practice

DR TONY FELTBOWER
General Practice Expert Witness

- The diagnosis and referral for neurological conditions which commonly present in general practice, including: Stroke, sub arachnoid haemorrhage, spinal tumour, Cauda Equina, MS
- Common areas of clinical negligence regarding the suspected diagnosis/referral of these conditions
- Which conditions commonly present to a GP and what the GP should do when presented with a suspected neurological condition
- Referring in accordance with national guidance

C The Application of Bolam and Bolitho in Pure Diagnosis Cases

PAUL SANKEY
Consultant, Enable Law; &

DR SIMON FOX KC
Barrister, Serjeants' Inn Chambers

D Epilepsy - Sodium Valporate

BERNADETTE MCGHIE
Consultant, Russell-Cooke Solicitors; &

CAROLINE HALLISSEY
Barrister, Serjeants' Inn Chambers

- Case studies
- Implications of the Hughes Report

#ACNC2026 Programme

Thursday 19th March 2026

Plenary afternoon sessions kindly sponsored by:

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King's Bench Walk

14.05	Chair's Introduction	LISA O'DWYER <i>Director, Medico-Legal Services, AvMA</i>
14.10	Plenary Address: The 2026 Legal Update	CLAIRE WATSON KC <i>Barrister, Serjeants' Inn Chambers</i>
14.55	Plenary Address: Spinal Tumours	MR SIMON TIZZARD <i>Consultant Neurosurgeon & Spinal Surgeon, James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Spinal tumours: types and presentation■ Management options for spinal tumours■ The Neurosurgical expert perspective: Medicolegal implications and common areas of litigation in spinal tumours
15.40	Refreshments	<i>Kindly sponsored by</i>
16.05	Parallel Lectures	<i>Choose one from the options, right</i>
17.15	Close of Day One	
19.30	Mid-Conference Dinner Drinks Reception at the Royal Armouries Museum	
20.10	Mid-Conference Dinner - <i>Kindly sponsored by</i>	 
	<i>360 Photobooth -</i> <i>Kindly Sponsored by</i>	

PARALLEL LECTURES: E-H

E Epilepsy

DR FRANCESCO MANFREDONIA

Consultant Neurologist & Neurophysiologist, & Clinical Director of Neurology & Neurophysiology, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

- Misdiagnosis, delayed diagnosis and delayed treatment
- SUDEP
- Antiseizure medications and teratogenicity / neurodevelopmental outcomes in offspring
- Risk of epilepsy after traumatic brain injury
- Related issues in epilepsy care and medico-legal practice

F Neurological Conditions - A&E

DR LESLEY WATSON

Consultant in Emergency Medicine, Wythenshawe Hospital

- Neurological conditions commonly presented to A&E
- What should a reasonable A&E doctor do when presented with a suspected neurological condition?
- Common areas of negligence for an A&E doctor – when to scan
- Methods of referral/investigation

G Neuro-ophthalmology

MR IAN SIMMONS

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon & Paediatric Ophthalmologist, Spire Leeds Hospital

- Common neuro-ophtho conditions (ischaemic optic neuropathy, giant cell arteritis, idiopathic intracranial hypertension, brain tumours and secondary sight loss)
- Presentation with these conditions and diagnosis/treatment
- Common medico-legal problems in diagnosis and treating these conditions

H Neurotechnology - a new frontier in rehab?

RACHEL VICKERS KC & HARRY LAMBERT

Barristers, Outer Temple Chambers

- What is Neurotechnology?
- Why should Lawyers care?
- Therapies, aids & equipment: game changing tech
- The future: what's coming, and what will judges make of it?

#ACNC2026 Programme

Friday 20th March 2026

Plenary morning sessions kindly sponsored by:

12
King's Bench Walk

08.30 *Registration and refreshments*

09.00 **Chair's Introduction** **PAUL WHITEING**
Chief Executive, AvMA

09.05 **Plenary Address: ABC (Avoiding Birth Injury Childbirth) Programme** **DR. RACHNA BAHL**
Consultant Obstetrician, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Trust

09.50 **Plenary Address: Hidden Failures in Managing Cauda Equina Syndrome** **MR NAVEED YASIN**
Consultant in Complex Spine Surgery, Manchester Centre for Clinical Neurosciences, Salford Royal Hospital; &

MR RAY ROSS
Consultant Spinal Surgeon

- Presentation of cauda equina
- Diagnosis of CE
- Delay in diagnosis of CE – causation
- Surgical treatment of CE
- The effect of a negligent delay in referral on the patient's recovery
- Why lessons on CE are not being learnt
- Case studies

10.35 *Refreshments* Kindly sponsored by

SERJEANTS' INN

11.00 **Parallel Lectures** Choose one from the options, right

12.10 *Lunch*

PARALLEL LECTURES: I-L

I Brain Tumours

DR STEPHEN LOWIS

Consultant in Paediatric & Adolescent Oncology

- Types of tumour, effect of delay in referral on diagnosis and long- term prognosis, treatment, clinical trials, life after brain injury for the survivor
- Surgical treatment for brain injury and common negligence mistakes and complications

J Multiple Sclerosis

DR IOANNIS MAVROUDIS

Consultant Neurologist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust

- Delay in diagnosis and effect on long term prognosis
- Treatments available and outlook with early diagnosis
- Worsening of MS in the context of other clinical negligence, e.g. MS sufferer needing surgery for a grade 4 pressure sore. Would this alleged negligence have worsened the MS?
- Medical advances in the treatment of MS

K Genetic Testing – whose choice is it anyway?

BEN COLLINS KC

Barrister, Old Square Chambers

- How to respond to a Defendant's application for the Claimant to undergo testing
- When courts will order a stay
- The balancing act: Claimant's personal autonomy vs Defendant's right to defend the claim
- The developing authorities and recent cases

L Reverse Indemnity

JOHN-PAUL SWOBODA KC

Barrister, 12 King's Bench Walk

- What is a reverse indemnity and when should a reverse indemnity be given? What heads of damage might attract a reverse indemnity?
- Cases on reverse indemnities, including EAC v Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
- Alternatives to undertakings
- Release Clauses
- When should you seek release from the undertaking?
- Who pays the costs of being released from undertakings?

#ACNC2026 Programme

Friday 20th March 2026

Plenary afternoon sessions kindly sponsored by:

12
King's Bench Walk**13.00 Plenary Address:**
Subarachnoid
Haemorrhage**MR NICK PHILLIPS**Consultant Neurosurgeon, Leeds
Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

- Delays in referral by GPs and A&E doctors, and the effect on causation
- Treatment (surgery) for a SAH
- Common complications with surgery – particularly those caused by negligence

13.45 Plenary
Address: How
AI is Reshaping
the Practice
of Medicine
and Clinical
Negligence Law**ROBERT KELLAR KC**

Barrister, 1 Crown Office Row

- Should healthcare practitioners be liable where treatment assisted by AI goes wrong?

14.30 Chair's Closing
Remarks**End of**
Conference

ACNC2026 Sponsors

AvMA wishes to thank the following organisations for their sponsorship and support:



12
King's Bench Walk



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ACNC2026 Exhibitors

The ACNC is the ideal way to reinforce your company's brand, create new business opportunities and maintain customer interface with current clients.

AvMA wishes to thank the following organisations for their support:



REGISTER NOW

We look forward to welcoming you to the ACNC

Should you have any queries regarding ACNC2026 please
contact the AvMA events team

Email: conferences@avma.org.uk

Telephone: 0203 096 1140

Website: www.avma.org.uk/ACNC2026

Twitter: #ACNC2026