



**Dr Suzanna Hardman PhD, FRCP**

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I trained in London after a somewhat inauspicious start to my medical school interviews when to my surprise two grey haired clinicians leant forward and enquired of me “Why don’t you want to nurse?” I don’t recall my response but UCL interviews followed, testing my knowledge of literature, science and other areas. There followed an unconditional place to read Medicine amongst “the Godless of Gower St” and a life I can only describe as one of extraordinary privilege. Job changes were frequent and often six monthly, but a love of clinical medicine, long hours, luck and the support of wise mentors led me to cardiology and thereafter research.

In a Department that demanded rigorous academic standards, I immersed myself in human physiology exploring the impact of interval on cardiac contractile function, whilst undertaking a 1 in 3 on call. Perhaps this kept me sane in the early days of my PhD. But results did emerge and with the need for complex analyses came travel to Austria for massive computer power where overnight the monster that filled the basement crunched numbers and splurged out paper. Research brought its own excitements, education, and disciplines, a PhD, a BHF Intermediate Fellowship and then a novel Consultant appointment. Asked to deliver an integrated program of research, education and clinical care across primary secondary and tertiary care domains, heart failure has been the focus of my energies, locally and now at a national level.

What does this choice offer? A job that is intellectually and clinically stimulating, that offers continuity of patient care and the pleasures and outcomes that ensue, charming brilliant colleagues, locally and nationally, and one hopes the ability to make a difference. Every day is busy and different and mostly ends in the company of a wonderfully supportive family.