



Professor Gary B Smith



Professor Gary Smith graduated from Southampton University (1977) and, following trainee posts in medicine and anaesthesia in Southampton, Gloucester, Bristol and Cheltenham, spent one year as a faculty member of Yale University, USA. Between 1986 and 2011 he worked as Consultant in Critical Care at Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. He is a Visiting Professor at Bournemouth University.

Gary has a long-standing interest in the early recognition of, and the response to, patient deterioration. In 1998, he was a lead author of a British Medical Journal article, which highlighted opportunities to improve the ward care of sick patients. Following on from this research, in 2000, he developed the ALERT (Acute Life-threatening Events; Recognition & Treatment) course and was instrumental in educational initiatives by the UK Royal Colleges to improve ward staffs' knowledge and skills of recognising and managing deterioration. Gary has contributed to reports by UK bodies (NPSA, NICE, DH, Royal College of Physicians) regarding vital signs monitoring, acute care competencies and early warning scores. He led the clinical team that developed a hand-held, computer-based system (VitalPAC) for the early recognition of patient deterioration, for which the team has won several IT and patient safety awards. Data collected through VitalPAC has been used to assist in the development of NEWS - the proposed UK National Early Warning Score. Gary was named 'NHS Innovator of the Year' in the NHS Leadership Awards 2010. In 2011, he was awarded the Whitaker award by the Intensive Care Society and, in 2012, he received the 'Humphry Davy Medal' from the Royal College of Anaesthetists.