

Major-General Professor Tim Hodgetts, CB, CBE: Hon DSc

Thursday 18 July 2024, am

Vice-Chancellor

I am delighted to introduce our honorary graduand, MAJOR-GENERAL PROFESSOR TIM HODGETTS, an internationally renowned expert and innovator in emergency and disaster medicine.

From 2021 until May of this year (2024), Tim was Surgeon General of the United Kingdom Armed Forces – the UK's most senior uniformed medical officer and the culmination of a distinguished military career which included many years of active medical service. His involvement with emergency medicine began during his tour of duty in N Ireland where personal experience left him concerned about the lack of an organised system to deal with multiple casualty incidents, whatever the causes. This led to the development of the Major Incident Medical Management and Support programme (MIMMS) – a programme Tim subsequently worked on with Warwick's former Professor, Matthew Cooke. Initially for military use (it became the NATO standard training programme in 2004), it has since become the standard protocol, triggered whenever there is a mass casualty incident, helping hospitals to deal with the situation without becoming overwhelmed. Tim has been

instrumental in introducing other major transformations in emergency and trauma response which have also crossed over into civilian medicine: for example, the early warning score – a simple numerical method to determine which patients need the most urgent treatment – is now routinely used in the NHS. In 2016, Tim co-founded the charity CitizenAID, designing a free, multi award-winning app to support the public during a terrorist attack: with the slogan ‘Be prepared, not scared’, CitizenAID teaches people how to keep casualties alive until the emergency services arrive. Tim has also patented a new device, the Tourni-Key, for public use to treat life-threatening limb bleeding.

In Defence, Tim has nurtured the speciality of emergency medicine from infancy to maturity. From 1995 to 2001 he was Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Frimley Park Hospital before taking up a leadership role at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Birmingham. Tim went on to become the inaugural Defence Professor with the Royal College of Emergency Medicine from 2008-2010. Tim may not recall that he supported me in the mid-1990s to write some of my earliest publications and put me through my paces when he examined me for the Royal College of Surgeons Fellowship of Immediate Medical Care.

Tim has led innovation and change in medicine: the new concepts, practices, guidelines and curricula he has introduced have become international standards in pre-hospital care, major trauma and disaster medicine in both civilian and military practice and have undoubtedly saved many lives. He has written over 30 books and numerous articles, and is a frequent speaker on subjects such as innovation and strategic leadership, of which he has huge practical experience: he tells the story, for instance, of successfully building an Emergency Department in a hospital in Kosovo in six weeks in 1999, and persuading the local Medical School to bring in emergency medicine as a new speciality.

Tim holds a host of awards and honours. He has been awarded 18 academic medals including the Mitchiner Medal of the Royal College of Surgeons and in 2006 was named Hospital Doctor of the Year throughout the NHS. He was made an Officer of the Order of St John in 1999, received the CBE in 2009 and the CB in 2023. He is the King's Honorary Surgeon, and was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands in 2023. It is a pleasure to welcome him to Warwick today.

Vice-Chancellor: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, MAJOR-GENERAL PROFESSOR TIM HODGETTS.