



Biography

Professor W S El Masri(Y) MB,BCH, FRCS, FRCP,PHF
Clinical Professor of Spinal Injuries, Keele University
Emeritus Consultant Surgeon in Spinal Injuries
RJ & AH Orthopaedic Hospital – Oswestry Shropshire
UK Past president of ISCoS

WEM specifically trained between 1971 and 1983 in the speciality of traumatic spinal injuries (tSCI) and its allied specialities at Stoke Mandeville, Oxford, Guys Hospitals in the UK & the USA. He was the last student of Sir Ludwig Guttmann, Dr Hans Frankel and Dr JJ Walsh.

His training was accredited by the Joint Committee of Higher Surgical Training representing the Royal Colleges of Surgeons, the Association of Professors of Surgery and the Specialists Surgical Associations in Great Britain and Ireland. To date WEM personally treated 10,000 patients with traumatic Spinal & Spinal Cord Injuries.

WEM developed, and led the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI) between 1983 & 2014 and raised £6 million from Charity to: rebuild and furnish the Centre, help with the development of laboratory research and the development of two purpose built bungalows for Transitional Housing of patients in the Community.

He took responsibility for the management of the injured spine, the multi-system neuro-physiological impairment and its consequent multi-organ malfunction and the range of non-medical and physical effects of cord injury in the acute, subacute, rehabilitation phases as well as the lifespan of patients.

WEM lectures worldwide in developed and developing countries.

He contributed to the literature with 155 publications and published his observations on pin prick sensory sparing as a prognostic indicators of spontaneous neurological recovery following Traumatic Spinal Cord Injuries. He published a long term population based incidence and characteristics of Bladder Cancer as well as the long term population based incidence and clinical presentation of Post Traumatic Syringomyelia in Patients with Spinal Injuries

He introduced the concepts of “Physiological Instability of the Injured Spinal Cord “ “Time Related Biomechanical Instability of the Injured Spine ” and “Micro-instability of the injured spine”.

WEM highlights the importance of an integrated holistic simultaneous system of management of the injured spine together with all the effects of cord damage from the early hours/days of injury. This is to prevent further mechanical and non-mechanical damage to the injured neural tissue and ensure maximum sensory-motor and functional recovery that enable patients to achieve maximum independence within the level of their disability. He demonstrated that with such a comprehensive Physiological Management of the patient and successful prevention of systemic some motor recovery

at or below the level of injury occurs without surgical intervention on the spine. He also demonstrated that this neurological recovery occurs irrespective of the degree of Biomechanical Instability on Xrays and irrespective of the degree of Canal encroachment and Cord Compression On CT and MRI.

WEM is Peer reviewer for a number of Journals.

WEM held the offices of: President of the International Spinal Cord Society, Chairman of the British Association of Spinal Cord Injury Specialists and Executive Member of the BSRM.

Founder Member and trustee of SPIRIT Educational Charity in Spinal Injuries and Transhouse Charity that provides interim accommodation between hospital and home for patients .

He raised about six million pounds from charity to rebuild and furnish the MCSI.

Advisor to WHO's & Co-author of the WHO International Perspectives on Spinal Cord Injury which was published in 2013, Member of the NICE Guideline Developing Group in spinal injuries. He received a number of awards including: the Medal of the International Spinal Cord Society, National Hospital Doctor Team Award for Innovation, Paul Harris Fellowship of the Rotary Club Outstanding achievement award from the Chinese Society of Spinal Injuries, Outstanding Consultant Achievement award by the Spinal Injury Association, Hon. Presidency of the Romanian Spinal Cord Society. He was commended in the House of Lords on two occasions.

WEM's is an advocate for the demonstration of evidence based clinical management and the right of the patient to make a fully informed choice between the various methods of treatment including that of the injured spine. He strongly advocates for the management of patients by knowledgeable, well trained, experienced Clinicians supported by a team of Health Care professional in Specialised Spinal Cord Injury Centres with a fit for purpose infrastructure from the early hours or days following injury and follow them up regularly for life. This is to enable the team to meet all the medical and nonmedical needs of patients with such rare and complex condition as well as gain experience by observing and improving the short, medium and long term outcomes of their management.