



## The First Woman Professor Of Emergency Medicine In The UK



Suzanne MASON, MBBS, FRCS, FCEM, MD was promoted to the rank of Professor of Emergency Medicine this year, making her the United Kingdom's first woman Professor of Emergency Medicine. The title of Professor in England is bestowed rarely, and requires a superb record of academic and clinical excellence. There are only 7 Professors of Emergency Medicine in the United Kingdom.

Professor Mason qualified in medicine from London University in 1990. She pursued her training initially in surgery and then specialised in Emergency Medicine. She spent a year as a Royal College of Surgeons of England Research Fellow and was awarded an MD whilst undertaking higher training in Emergency Medicine. She joined the School for Health and Related Research (SchARR) at the University of Sheffield as a Senior Clinical Lecturer in 2001 and was promoted to Reader in 2007. Professor Mason divides her time between research at the University and clinical work at the Northern General Hospital, part of Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust. She is Director of Health Services Research at SchARR and co-directs a program for academic fellows in emergency medicine. She is a member of SAEM and the UK's College of Emergency Medicine, where she is vice-chair of the Research Committee.

Professor Mason's primary research interests include evaluating complex interventions in emergency and urgent care. She is particularly interested in the evaluation of new roles and alternative pathways of care. She helped to implement a program in Yorkshire in which paramedics trained as Emergency Care Practitioners provided treatment for selected conditions in the home for the elderly to prevent ED visits. The program received the "Frontline Award for Emergency Care" as "an excellent innovative scheme which is having a major impact on avoiding unnecessary admission to hospital." Her randomized study of this intervention showed it to be as safe as an ED visit. Her current studies include evaluating junior doctor confidence and competence in carrying out their role in emergency medicine (The EDiT study: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/sections/hsr/emergency/edit.html>), evaluating the use of a falls pathway by paramedics attending older people who have fallen (SAFER 2 Trial), and assessing the impact that the UK four-hour Emergency Department target has had on patient care (SAFETIME study).

