

## CURRICULUM VITAE

# Rob Bentley

The cranio-oral and maxillofacial surgeon is proud of his work in getting a helipad at King's College London's major trauma centre

### Humble beginnings

I was born in Cardiff Royal Infirmary, where I would later work, and I grew up in Grangetown, the city's dock area. I was the first person in my family to do A levels. My father left school when he was 11, and my mother aged 14. My older brother took up an apprenticeship after O levels and I had to work off my own back to find out about higher education, something I like to help tackle now by teaching at careers days in schools.



### Dentistry

I wanted to do a vocational degree, so either dentistry or medicine seemed like a good choice. The training seemed to be shorter in dentistry and salaries and hours were reasonably good. It was in my last year at the University of Wales College of Medicine that I came across oral and maxillofacial surgery. I remember being in an outpatient clinic, seeing patients with such a range of conditions, from head and neck cancer through to major facial trauma, and I thought, "I want to do this."

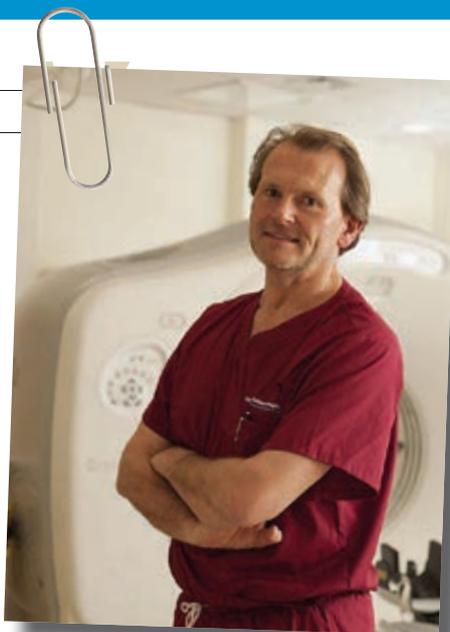


### Mature student

After qualifying in dentistry, I worked in hospitals for three years, sat fellowship exams, and went back to medical school in Cardiff for four years. It was a good time but really tough as I had support myself through the second degree.

### Craniofacial surgery

In 1987, at the end of my first week working at Birmingham Children's Hospital, I assisted in a baby having its head rearranged for a condition called craniosynostosis. It was the most amazing thing I had ever seen and I knew I wanted to be a craniofacial surgeon.



**"Now, thanks to the air ambulance patients can fly from Margate to King's in 25 minutes. I am very proud of that"**

### CAREER TIMELINE

- 2013-to date** Clinical director of South East London, Kent, and Medway Major Trauma Network
- 2012-13** London clinical director for trauma rehabilitation
- 2010-12** Next generation chief executive programme, Healthcare for London and London Business School
- 2008-17** Clinical director, King's Major Trauma Centre
- 2008-12** Member of the steering committee for the redesign of the London major trauma system
- 2000-present** Consultant in oral and maxillofacial surgery, King's College Hospital, London
- 2000** Trauma attachment, University of Basel, Switzerland
- 2000** Fellowship in craniofacial surgery, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- 1999** Fellowship in craniofacial surgery, Birmingham Children's Hospital
- 1997-98** Fellowship in cleft lip and palate, University of Leipzig, Germany
- 1994-2000** Specialist registrar rotation in oral and maxillofacial surgery, Birmingham and the West Midlands
- 1988-92** Medical degree, University of Wales College of Medicine
- 1981-85** Dentistry degree, University of Wales College of Medicine

### Germany

I did a fellowship in cleft lip and palate in Leipzig, in the former East Germany. That was really interesting because the wall had only been down for six years. I learnt German and was employed as a registrar, and I made some great friends, one of whom is now a consultant colleague.

### Valuable experience

In 2000, I spent six months as a craniofacial fellow at the University of Heidelberg. The experience taught me a lot about clinical coding and commissioning, something that I was later involved with as a clinical director for London trauma rehabilitation. In Germany, healthcare was much better funded and the quality of patient experience was better. However, in terms of value for money and efficiency, the NHS at that time was in advance of Germany, through necessity.

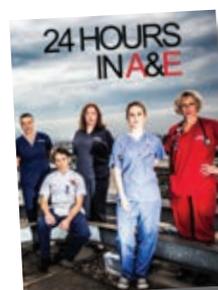
### Helipad

In 2010, I became clinical director of the South East London Trauma Network and for King's College Hospital Major Trauma Centre, for 2.5 million people. I worked with commissioners in Medway to ensure their two million patients could access the major trauma centre at King's and we went live as the South East London, Kent and Medway Trauma Network in 2013. Then, air ambulances had to land in a park and the patient had a 25 minute ambulance journey. I led the team in designing, getting planning permission, and raising money for a helipad at King's. It opened in October 2016 and now patients can fly from Margate to King's in 25 minutes. I am very proud of that.



### Life on screen

I featured in the Channel 4 programme *24 Hours in A&E* and was embarrassed when they used my quotes "unconditional love" and "love is a reflex" in the opening sequence. I provide a large cranial reconstruction service and one of my patients featured in a BBC *Horizon* programme called *Richard's War*. It's an incredible story.





Pál Weihe, 68, is head of the Faroe Islands' Department of Occupational Medicine and Public Health. He was instrumental in bringing about a change to the Faroese diet, with profound cultural implications—the pilot whale had long been a diet staple until Weihe started his investigations. Babies born in the 1980s, he found, had high levels of mercury in their blood that correlated with the amount of whale meat their mothers had eaten and was negatively affecting the children's brains. His campaign to reduce whale consumption has made him unpopular at times, but it has been successful. His story has now been made into a film, *The Islands and the Whales*

## BMJ CONFIDENTIAL

# Pál Weihe Island health campaigner

### What was your earliest ambition?

To have an academic degree, which was quite an unusual goal in the small fishing community where I grew up in the Faroe Islands.

### What was your best career move?

After graduating as a doctor I was granted a full year's course at Copenhagen University in basic medical sciences, intended especially for occupational and environmental research. It mapped out my career path.

### What was the worst mistake in your career?

My main regret was not being able to successfully convey to Faroese politicians and administrators the value of offering all citizens whole genome sequencing.

### How is your work-life balance?

My work is also my hobby, so I have no clear division between work and leisure.

### How do you keep fit and healthy?

Regrettably, I'm a dormant member of a fitness club, but I walk to and from work, weather permitting. Walking brings fresh thoughts and tranquillity to the mind.

### What single change would you like to see in the Faroese health system?

As chair of the Faroese Medical Association I'd like to see many more doctors, so that citizens could benefit from the vast progress in medical sciences.

### What do you wish that you had known when you were younger?

That things take time. My impatience is considerable—always has been.

### Do doctors get paid enough?

My salary is sufficient; to me the work is a reward on its own. Compared with other Faroese professions, however, doctors are not particularly well paid.

### What living doctor do you most admire, and why?

Philippe Grandjean, professor of environmental medicine, who has been my colleague for 34 years. I admire his knowledge, commitment, and perseverance.

### What is the worst job you have done?

Medical director of the Faroese hospital system for a decade.

### What single change has made the most difference in your field?

Online access to toxicological databases, which has radically changed my work in occupational and environmental medicine.

### What new technology or development are you most looking forward to?

Whole genome analyses and personalised medicine.

### What is your guiltiest pleasure?

Whisky.

### Summarise your personality in three words

Cheerful, creative, furious.

### What is your pet hate?

Resistance to progress, disguised as ethical concern.

### Is the thought of retirement a dream or a nightmare?

Nightmare.

### If you weren't in your present position what would you be doing instead?

I'd be the captain on a big fishing vessel.

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