

# In the footsteps of Dominique Larrey

A year ago Dominique Jean Larrey was not a name which quickly came to mind within the health-care establishment, other than among senior members of the paramedicine community. Today that name is synonymous with a fast-growing membership organization of more than 350 paramedics and health-care professionals, which is set to have a key influence on the future shape of emergency medical services in the 21st century.

The Larrey Society was formed in 2015, in the footsteps of Dominique Larrey, as the first cross-sector emergency medical services 'think tank' to give individuals of all ranks from the NHS, independent and voluntary sectors a voice. This is intended to allow them to express their views and ideas to health-care legislators and regulators for a service which is fit for purpose to meet the changing needs of patients in the future.

It is independent, privately funded and neither receives nor seeks any type of government funding. The speed and

scope of the Society's growth in reputation, membership and international recognition, has exceeded the most optimistic predictions and also outstripped its financial resources. As a result it has reluctantly introduced a modest annual membership subscription which, together with corporate sponsorship, will enable it to maintain its integrity and professionalism.

The Larrey Society's sudden emergence from nowhere and its welcome acceptance by the health-care establishment has uncovered a hidden latent need for the likes of paramedics, dispatchers, fleet managers and many others in the world of emergency medical services to have an opportunity to be heard by those who make irrevocable decisions which affect their profession and the wellbeing of patients.

Meetings are conducted under Chatham House rules on confidentiality, the protocol used by diplomats to encourage full and frank discussion and at the same time protect the identity of speakers, their jobs and political affiliations.

Reflecting Larrey's formula for his achievements on the battlefield – tenacity and innovation – the Society has set about interacting with legislators and regulators on a wide range of issues from paramedics'

safety and job-related burnout and the backlog of Care Quality Commission ambulance inspections, to police delays in processing Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, legislation to ban 'cowboy' ambulance companies and criticism of ambulance contract commissioning.

In its most recent campaign the Society is taking on more than 400 local authorities in England and Wales calling for the lifting of the ban on NHS-funded ambulances on non-emergency patient journeys from using bus lanes. In true Larrey style it has launched a petition seeking public support for its cause.

Health-care professionals, particularly those working in the fields of emergency medicine and pre-hospital medicine, who would like to contribute their ideas on the future and development of emergency and paramedicine can apply for membership at [www.thelarreysociety.org](http://www.thelarreysociety.org)

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of Dominique Larrey's birth the Society has launched the Larrey Lecture. This will be given by Professor Douglas Chamberlain CBE, on 13 July at the Royal Society of Medicine in London and will look at the past, present and future of the ambulance service. Tickets can be purchased at [www.larreylecture.co.uk](http://www.larreylecture.co.uk) **BJHM**

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## THE LARREY LECTURE 2016

250th Anniversary of the birth of Dominique Jean Larrey

The Larrey Society would like to cordially invite you to **The Larrey Lecture 2016**

Keynote Address: Professor Douglas Chamberlain, CBE

[www.larreylecture.co.uk](http://www.larreylecture.co.uk)

**Date: 13th July 2016 Venue: Cavendish Conference Centre, London**

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will benefit from the proceeds of the event