

Report from Cryonics UK training (11–12 December 2010)

Posted by David Styles on December 21st, 2010

"Bob's dead; help!"

If you received such a call from Bob's wife, would you know what to do?

There's a lot to be done all at once when someone suffers a cardiac arrest; from first aid in almost any case, to "last aid" in the case of those who have made arrangements for their cryopreservation under such circumstances.

Even just knowing the right phonecalls to make is a starting point.

December's CUK training incorporated a session covering as many eventualities as possible, ensuring attendees knew not only what should happen in an ideal situation, but also what should happen when things are thrust upon them at a moment's notice, in a situation that's not ideal.

- Has there been a pronouncement of death already?
- Who has custody?
- What is the patient's condition?
- Where is the patient?
- Who has been contacted already?
- Can cooling begin right away?
- What about cardiopulmonary support?

As usual there was also a more practical hands-on element to the training too, including much of Sunday afternoon being occupied with training in the use of CUK's air-transportable perfusion kit (the equipment with which a patient is perfused with a cryoprotectant solution, known by the creative and colourful name "CI VM-1", in order to allow the patient to be cooled to a very low temperature without allowing ice crystals to form in the patient's brain).

Not a lot of people know how to do that, but those who attend our trainings get a head start!