

Randolph Beard, a colorectal surgeon at Guy's Hospital whence he retired in 1986, died in 2015 aged 89. He was known only by name to many current members of the TSS, to which he was elected in 1969. He hosted the TSS home visit (in London) at Guy's Hospital in October 1980. He attended many TSS meetings until his retirement, when he moved to Petersfield then later to Leominster.

Born in 1926, 'Randy' Beard was a pupil at Epsom College and won prizes in biology before going on to Clare College, Cambridge, which later awarded him his Mastership in Surgery (MChir). He progressed from being a house surgeon then surgical registrar at Guy's Hospital to succeeding Mr Grant Massie in 1959 as a consultant after working at Putney Hospital (during which time he was called up for military service in the Suez crisis). As a consultant surgeon at Guy's Hospital he ran the rectal clinic, and was also on the staff of St Olave's Hospital and honorary consultant surgeon at St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy. Handsome and courteous, he was renowned for the speed of his operating, which was admired by his seniors (including Messrs Grant Massie and Sam Wass) with whom he had good rapport, as he did with his surgical students whom he insisted should have a firm grasp of anatomy. On his retirement from Guy's Hospital, he was the subject of a eulogy by Lord McColl who extolled his enthusiasm, good humour, and excellent time-keeping (as well as acknowledging his dislike of committee work, of which he did his fair share though he "preferred his group psychotherapy under more pleasant surroundings"). He valued his family life with his wife Mary, and is recalled with respect and affection by the most senior members of the TSS though contact was lost in recent years.