

2022 James Gagg

The evolution of a medical specialty: Emergency Medicine, the first fifty years

Emergency Departments (A&E) see around 25million patients each year. Emergency Medicine however, is a relatively young medical specialty, having celebrated 50 years of existence in 2017. We will start before the inception of the NHS and explore why casualty wards existed, how the Second World War contributed to changes in healthcare delivery on the journey to the first meeting of the Casualty Surgeons Association in 1967 and ultimately the evolution into today's highly utilised and specialist Emergency Departments.