



Uterus pain mistaken for bowel problems, study finds

A PAINFUL gynaecological condition that causes infertility in about a third of sufferers is often misdiagnosed as irritable bowel syndrome, a study by Sydney researchers suggests.

Endometriosis affects about 10 per cent of women at some stage during their menstruating years, but many endure a decade or more of painful periods and/or sex because co-existing symptoms such as bloating and nausea are mistaken for IBS.

The head of gynaecology at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Michael Cooper, said endometriosis had an effect on women's relationships but the condition was poorly understood. "We very often see women who have had severe period pain for years but think it's normal and their bowel symptoms have been diagnosed as IBS when actually they have endometriosis," Dr Cooper said.

A study of 355 women who underwent laparoscopic surgery for suspected endometriosis (the only method for diagnosis) is published in this month's Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Of the 290 women confirmed as having the condition, 90 per cent had gastrointestinal problems. But only 7.5 per cent of those studied had a gastrointestinal reason for the symptoms. The lead researcher, Paulette Maroun, said: "Women are more likely to complain about bloating than severe dysmenorrhea [period pain] or dyspareunia [pain during sex]. They also self-diagnose using the internet and they change their diet and make other changes. Thus the diagnosis of endometriosis is delayed and their quality of life suffers."

Limited data from 125 of the women found 75 per cent had a significant improvement in bowel symptoms after the surgical excision of endometrial disease.

GREECE: Modern Greek at Cambridge in danger

Lack of funds may force the Modern Greek department at Cambridge University to close, despite the fact it has been providing high-quality studies in the modern Greek language and literature at the undergraduate, master and PhD levels for the past 70 years.

Professor David Holton, currently chair of modern Greek at Cambridge University, spoke recently at the Academy of Athens in a celebration organised by the British Embassy to celebrate Cambridge's 800 years. Holton said that despite an immense contribution to research of the Greek language, the department was facing closure unless some form of rescue was on the way and he appealed for support.

Due to retire in a few years, Holton was anxious to secure the future of the department to which he has devoted a substantial part of his life - and the continuation of the work he started when he first took the appointment more than 28 years ago.

Holton launched an appeal hoping to raise £4 million (US\$7 million) to be placed in an endowment fund to provide sufficient income to replace him when he retires and to appoint a full-time lecturer on a permanent basis.

He is currently negotiating with Greek authorities but is also looking towards cultural foundations, charitable institutions and wealthy private individuals. Holton rejects criticism that Greece has not helped and points out that in the past the Greek Education Ministry and the Ministry of Culture have provided some support even if it was fragmentary and irregular. One form of support was the secondment of a teacher of Greek by the



Ministry of Education to Cambridge. But the arrangement was not ideal and caused a number of problems to the section and to the holder.

A grant by the Leventis Foundation enabled the university to set up a professorship of Greek culture which focuses on ancient Greece.

Romilly Jenkins, who started as a classical archaeologist and became one of the leading Byzantine historians of his generation, was the first to be appointed to the chair. He was succeeded by Stavros Papastavrou, graduate of Aristotle University in Thessaloniki and Oxford University who held the position for 32 years until his death in 1979. He was fortunate to see four of his students becoming leading academics in universities in three continents.

During a short stopover on his way to a conference in Crete, where he was the guest of honour, Holton spoke to University World News about his plans, his hopes and his aspirations for the modern Greek section and the Greek language and culture.

"Whenever one mentions Greece one immediately thinks of ancient Greece," he complains rather good-humouredly. "Yet modern Greek language and culture have a great deal to offer. Modern Greek society today is full of energy and there are a lot of excellent examples in literature, poetry, music, film and many more." He reels off names such as Elytis, Seferis, Gatsos and Ritsos, Theodorakis and Hatzidakis, Aggelopoulos and others: **"If only one can find a way to project them effectively,"** he muses.

Postgraduate modern Greek studies at Cambridge have notched a substantial improvement in the last cou-

ple of decades according to Holton. Twelve students from Greece and Cyprus have completed their doctoral theses in subjects from medieval mythology and literature as well as the literature and the poetry of the 20th century. Many of these students are now in important positions in Greek and Cypriot universities as well as in the US.

During his tenure, Holton has published many books including *The Tale of Alexander - The rhymed version, the early 17th century epic romance by Vincenzo Kornaros (1563-1614)*, *Erotokritos* and other modern Greek texts, *Literature and Society in Renaissance Crete* (1991), as well as two grammar books on the modern Greek language with Peter Mackridge and Irene Phillipaki-Warburton among others.

Over the last 16 years, Holton also His most important project however, is a new Greek Grammar which will be the first comprehensive description of the medieval and early modern Greek language funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. For the past five years, a team led by himself and co-directed by Professor Geoff Horrocks of the faculty of classics, with two full-time research associates and two honorary consultants, has been gathering, analysing and organising linguistic data for the period 1100-1700 when the beginnings of the modern vernacular became evident.

"Despite the increasing availability of material there has been no systematic and detailed account of the development of the Greek language during this crucial period" says Bolton. "And this grammar aims to fill a serious gap in the history of the Greek language."

Were it to be judged only on its output and the level and quality of its research, the future of the modern Greek section would be more than assured. Unfortunately, as Constantinos Dimadis, Emeritus Professor at the Berlin Freie Universität and President of the European Association of Modern Greek Studies, wrote in the prologue to a Cambridge in Athens brochure: "The overturning of the conditions which defined the legal framework of European universities in favour of exclusively financial criteria, bodes serious dangers for the existence of many academic branches."

Holton however, refuses to be swamped by the many difficulties and remains stubbornly optimistic. Justifiably, he claims that his modern Greek section at Cambridge, together with a few others spread around the world, are engaged in a sort of "cultural diplomacy" which is far too important for the Greek state, wealthy patriotic Greek individuals and Greek society to ignore.

Peter Andre lands #1.5M cookery book deal

LONDON - Peter Andre has reportedly landed a 1.5million-pound cookery book deal putting him on par with his estranged wife Katie Price, who has amassed great money publishing her own tome. The singer's progress may be envied by the hottie, say sources. "This will really drive Katie round the bend - Pete's empire just keeps on growing. Kate prized herself on having best-selling books, it was one of the things that made her more of a housewife than a party girl," the Mirror quoted a source as saying. The insider added: "But now Pete is riding high and more and more success is coming his way since their split."

The book is supposed to be perfect as a single man's guide to prepare easy meals for the family. A source said: "It will start with barbecue food - which all men will love - and ways to spruce up a juicy piece of meat. Then it will have delicious pastas and soups. Trust Pete to keep it authentic with some old Greek family recipes that his fans won't be able to resist. He's even considering having a wok section with oriental recipes inspired from his recent trip to Asia."

Andre is also set to release his comeback single 'Behind Closed Doors' this week. Meanwhile, Katie's latest novel *Sapphire* was a best seller last week.