James Parkinson’s *An Essay on the Shaking Palsy* (1817) re-formulated an array of human dysmobilities as a single species of disease. Drawing on clinical and outdoor observations his Essay characterized a hitherto unrecognized disorder of shaking, posture and gait, by fusing together case-descriptions that created an overarching and affecting account of a disease.

My talk will examine Parkinson’s case reports and the textual machinery he deployed to create a new narrative of a disease, which drew on discourses of outdoor observations of urban streets, sentimental writings, and political pamphleteering.

**Brian Hurwitz**

Brian Hurwitz worked for 30 years as an inner city general practitioner. Since 2002, he’s been Professor of Medicine and the Arts at King’s College London where he co-directs the Centre for the Humanities and Health, a multidisciplinary research unit offering training at masters, PhD and postdoctoral levels for both humanities and clinically trained professionals (https://humanitiesandhealth.wordpress.com/) and seminars to the public. Prior to his current position he was Professor and Head of Department of Primary Care and General Practice at Imperial College London.