important that they take part in decisions about what and how they are going to learn, and how they are to be assessed.

‘A bit harder, but a lot more fun’ it said in the information I received before I started my medical training. Since I have not studied at a traditional university, I cannot tell whether PBL is more difficult or not. What I do know is that I have really enjoyed my studies, even though, in the early years of my course, I experienced a lot of frustration and anxiety, mainly through wanting to know exactly what was required for examinations. Looking back, I can see that my anxiety has decreased. In its place I have gained the confidence to know that if there is something I do not know, I can always find it out for myself.

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Medical Anniversary

JOHN HUNTER, 13/14 FEBRUARY 1728

John Hunter (1728–93) was born at midnight at Long Calderwood, East Kilbride, near Glasgow, son of a farmer and youngest of a family of 10. He died a world famous surgeon scientist on 16 October 1793 in London. Clift wrote that it was “the same day, and perhaps hour, that the unfortunate Marie Antoinette, Queen of France, was beheaded in Paris”. In September 1748, John joined his brother William, a successful obstetrician, in London, and in turn became anatomist, skilled dissector, army surgeon, surgical tutor, surgeon to St George’s Hospital, venereologist, and prolific and successful author.

His name remains evergreen in the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Hunterian Society of London. – *DG James*

Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery