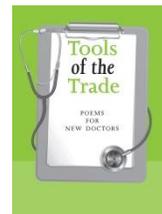


Scottish Poetry Library

Bringing people and poems together

Tools of the Trade: Poems for new doctors

***Tools of the Trade*, a gift from the medical profession to its newest members, is being given to all doctors graduating in Scotland in 2016, 2017 and 2018.**



The first edition of this book was given to graduating doctors in 2014 and 2015, and was so warmly supported by medical professionals and those who care about them that it has been possible to produce this second edition, with the additional generous support of both The Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland and the Royal College of General Practitioners (Scotland).

At a time when both junior doctors and general practice face many challenges, this gift is offered simply as a compassionate friend. As editors Dr Lesley Morrison and Dr John Gillies write in their introduction: 'To care and be compassionate to others, we first need to be compassionate, to look after, to be kind to ourselves.' Some of the poets in this edition are or were doctors themselves, including Dannie Abse, Iain Bamforth, Glenn Colquhoun, Martin MacIntyre and Gael Turnbull, and all the poems speak in some way to the experience of being a junior doctor. Different poems will suit different situations, and readers: the editors offer the poems simply 'as tools to help connect with your patients, your colleagues, yourself.'

Dr Miles Mack, Chair of RCGP Scotland, commented: 'It is always wonderful to welcome new colleagues into the profession. *Tools of the Trade* provides a great way of doing just that, emphasising how at the heart of every medical consultation sit people. The compassion these poems represent will, I hope, underpin every medical career.'

Dr Brendan Sweeney, Chairman of MDDUS, said: 'MDDUS are delighted to support this project and would like to offer our warmest congratulations to all those doctors who have graduated. We hope these poems will enrich both their personal and professional lives.'

The aims of the anthology mirror those of the Scottish Poetry Library in using poetry to support health and wellbeing, and in bringing people and poems together. The SPL's Director Robyn Marsack welcomed 'the generous support and extraordinary goodwill towards *Tools of the Trade*, from poets and publishers to the Deans of the Scottish medical schools, and RCGP Scotland and MDDUS. The Scottish Poetry Library brings people and poems together, and with this book enables that meeting at crucial junctures in the readers' lives. We hope that this will be found in many doctors' pockets, alongside the stethoscope that hears the heartbeat, reaching hearts through words.'

For further information on *Tools of the Trade*, please contact poemsfordoctors@spl.org.uk, or Lili Fraser at the Scottish Poetry Library, 5 Crichton's Close, Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DT, 0131 557 2876.

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Praise for the first edition of *Tools of the Trade*:

a totally brilliant idea that I hope other GP colleges worldwide will imitate.

Trevor Stammers, Programme Director in Bioethics and Medical Law, St Mary's University Twickenham, London

I think that if just one in 20 is turned on to poetry, the whole exercise will be worthwhile. For me, you cannot be a good doctor without some appreciation of, and infusion, of poetry.

Dr Richard Smith, BMJ Blog

What a marvellous collection of poems to inspire, console and enlighten the young doctor. An excellent initiative to provide some tools to enhance their own clinical practice.

Sir Kenneth Calman



The Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland is a mutual organisation offering doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals access to expert medico- and dental-legal assistance and professional indemnity. Established in 1902, we pride ourselves on providing a quality, responsive service that is valued by our members throughout the UK.
www.mddus.com



Royal College of
General Practitioners

The Royal College of General Practitioners (Scotland) represents a network of more than 5000 family doctors in Scotland aiming to improve care for patients. We work to encourage and maintain the highest standards of general medical practice and act as the voice of GPs on education, training, research, clinical standards and the development of the profession.

Royal College of General Practitioners is a registered charity in England and Wales (Number 223106) and Scotland (Number SC040430).

www.rcgp.org.uk/rcgp-near-you/rcgp-scotland

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The Scottish Poetry Library is a unique national resource and advocate for the enriching art of poetry. Through its collections, publications, education and outreach programmes the SPL aims to bring people and poetry together.

www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk