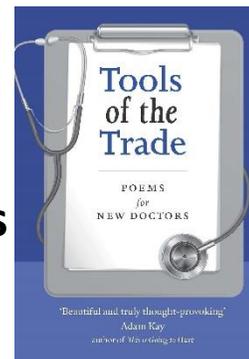


Scottish Poetry Library

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 2019, 2020 and 2021.**

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, Dr John Gillies and Rev Ali Newell write in their introduction: 'In order to look after patients, we need to look after, and be kind to ourselves.' Some of the poets in this edition are or were doctors themselves, including Dannie Abse, Rafael Campo, Glenn Colquhoun, and Martin MacIntyre, 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 Carey Lunan, Chair of RCGP Scotland, commented: "Tools of the Trade, as a pocket companion, can offer solace and perspective at times of stress to busy doctors, and serve as a reminder that human relationships underpin everything we do. Remain curious and seek out the story - our patient's - and our own."

Chris Kenny, Chairman of MDDUS, said: 'MDDUS are delighted to provide support for a new edition of *Tools of the Trade: Poems for New Doctors*, a resource for doctors to draw on in both the quiet and thoughtful moments of your career and perhaps at its most challenging times as well.'

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 Asif Khan welcomed the new edition, saying "poetry is an ideal medium for helping to build one's resilience and emotional intelligence. Our pocket-sized collections presented to graduating doctors and teachers have proven popular with recipients and we continue to seek new ways of engaging with professional sectors across Scotland on creative words for wellbeing."

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For further information on *Tools of the Trade*, please contact poemsfordoctors@spl.org.uk, or Samuel Tongue at the Scottish Poetry Library, 5 Crichton's Close, Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DT, 0131 557 2876. To buy a copy for £6.99 + £2 p+p, visit the Scottish Poetry Library's online Shop <https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/shop/>

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