

Dr James Scobbie

Jim Scobbie was born in Glasgow on 9 February 1920, and was educated at Glasgow Academy and Glasgow University, from where he graduated in medicine in 1943. After war service in Italy and Belgium with the Royal Army Medical Corp, he entered general practice in Scotstounhill in the west of Glasgow in 1948, where he remained until retirement in 1984. He had a life-long friendship with Willie Fulton who was in a neighbouring practice during the same period, and they were both successful in managing their own practices as well as sharing and pursuing their visions of improving quality in general practice .

Jim dedicated his working life to improving patient care, encouraging the introduction of undergraduate GP education and promoting the concept of vocational training. A founder member of the RCGP, later becoming a Fellow, he was an active West of Scotland (WoS) Faculty board member, joint honorary secretary with Willie Fulton in the 1960s, and later chairman. 1972 saw him complete his term of office as chairman of Glasgow LMC.

He played a prominent role in the development of health centres in Glasgow, the instigation of a chair of General Practice at Glasgow University and was instrumental in setting up the WoS vocational training schemes.

He served on Scottish Council, becoming chairman in the late 60s. Nationally, he represented the WoS Faculty and the Scottish Council. He relished his role on the academic review working party, probably the forerunner to the RCGP's move into postgraduate education. He was also a College examiner.

In 1972, Jim became the first Regional Advisor in GP in the West of Scotland, and worked tirelessly to pursue his vision of improving GP training, successfully building a team around him including his close friend Douglas Haldane, a Paisley GP who became his Associate Advisor.

Jim retired from practice and from the University in 1984, and enjoyed a happy retirement until his sudden death in September 1995. He was supported throughout his practice life by his wife Sarah, whom he married in 1945, and who survives him along with their four children.

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