

## Edinburgh Orthopaedic surgeons 1975

### Reference and contact details:

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Collage of orthopaedic surgeons at Princess Margaret Rose Hospital in 1975.  
Back row (left to right) George Fulford, William J. Gillespie, James Christie and Harley Gray.  
Front row (left to right) George Mitchell, Peter Abernethy, J. H. S. Scott, J. I. P. James, Willie Soutar, John Chalmers, Bill McQuillan and Douglas Lamb.

### Administrative/Biographical History:

#### Cartoon of the Edinburgh Orthopaedic Surgeons 1975

Professor Harley Gray of Auckland, New Zealand presented, in September 2010 this framed and glazed original 1975 drawing of the Edinburgh Orthopaedic Surgeons, by Mark Proctor, to the College's Archive with additional biographical notes

#### Cartoon of the Edinburgh Orthopaedic Surgeons 1975

This cartoon was commissioned by the registrars of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Edinburgh as a farewell gift for Harley Gray who was returning to New Zealand as the Sir William Stevenson Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery in the University of Auckland School of Medicine in 1975. The Edinburgh Orthopaedic Department, then as now, was a centre of excellence and at that time attracted many overseas surgeons who wished to augment their training. These caricatures represent the registrars' views of foibles of the consultant surgeons all of whom were greatly respected.

This original watercolour was presented to the Royal College of Surgeons by Professor Gray on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2010 in deep appreciation of the time he spent in Edinburgh from 1971-75 in the hope that it would contribute to the record of an outstanding period in Scottish orthopaedic surgery

**George Fulford** was the only surgeon for whom there was no available photograph, hence the book over his face. He was tall and elegant and had a scientific approach to his work. He had a special interest in cerebral palsy.

**Bill Gillespie** was a young consultant who subsequently held a number of academic posts in Edinburgh, New Zealand, Australia and was Foundation Dean of the Hull Medical School. He held strong Presbyterian values, hence the can-can dress from the annual staff pantomime. He insists the dancer was actually someone else.

**James Christie** had just returned from a Fellowship in California to staff the trauma service in the Royal Infirmary, hence the baby clothes. He subsequently played a major role in developing an international reputation in fracture treatment for the department.

**Harley Gray** is shown in the pram heading off down under. He had been Senior Lecturer for three years. He focussed mainly on the training and assessment of young surgeons within the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Later on he contributed to clinical governance in the NZ health service. His special interests were limb salvage surgery for musculoskeletal surgery, and the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in which he had been inspired by the late Douglas Savill.

#### **Front row**

**George Mitchell** was a prominent paediatric surgeon with a distinguished war record. He had a particular interest in congenital dislocation of the hip and many overseas fellows came to Edinburgh to study his methods.

**Peter Abernethy** was an Edinburgh trained surgeon who at this time was just starting his specialist career. Peter was a valued leader of the junior staff during his time as Senior Registrar and was a particularly generous host to visiting antipodeans.

Jimmy Scott was a highly regarded spinal surgeon and much loved by the juniors. He was very fit and active and had the best collection of malt whisky in the surgical community.

**Professor JIP James** was Head of Department and a major international figure in scoliosis surgery. He also had an interest in hand surgery. He took Harley Gray under his wing and trained him in the many skills needed to run a major teaching programme and to lead an academic department. These experiences subsequently lead to major changes in surgical training in Australasia. "Jip" ran a very tight programme, hence the Napoleonic reference

**Willie Souter** was particularly interested in rheumatoid surgery and took over from Douglas Savill as head of that specialty. He developed a particular interest in elbow replacement and had a very large heavy briefcase full of design drawings and other paper work, hence the ball and chain.

John Chalmers had a strong association with New Zealand and had major influence on Harley Gmy's training and education in research. He had a lifelong interest in metabolic bone disease and was highly regarded by the junior staff for his clinical skills. At the time this picture was being commissioned he had just acquired a new wardrobe in anticipation of beginning private practice.

**Bill McQuillan** was the *agent provocateur* of the department who challenged clinical fads and authority, and enlivened debate with the juniors. He is dressed in the attire of the Bay City Rollers, a prominent Edinburgh rock band of the period.

**Douglas Lamb** was hand surgeon with an international reputation. He did pioneering work during the thalidomide era. A tall reserved figure, he always talked authoritatively in his area of expertise.