

Jonathan Harvey Cossar is no stranger to the Bute Hall, having collected many degrees and awards here as a graduate of the University of Glasgow. Working as a GP in the West-end of Glasgow for 30 years, Jon was truly a visionary pioneer in Travel Medicine. Working closely with Professor Dan Reid (the Father of Glasgow Travel Medicine) in what was then the Communicable Diseases Scotland Unit (CDSU), later Health Protection Scotland, Jon was one of the first to do formal research specifically into the health of international travellers. That led to his MD (Glasg) on Illnesses Associated with Travel.

There followed a very productive period in Glasgow's contribution to Travel Medicine such that it began to emerge as a distinct medical discipline. Working both in CDSU and its successors and in general practice where the vast majority of Travel Medicine is practised, Jon was ideally placed to contribute and so he did. His CV documents his many contributions to Travel Medicine and his standing in the field was justly recognized by Jon being invited as session chair in the first three International Congresses on Travel Medicine. He also authored and co-authored 79 publications on travel medicine between 1980 and 2006.

It was therefore, no surprise when Jon played a significant part in setting up the Faculty of Travel Medicine (FTM) in our College. He served with distinction as Foundation Vice-Dean, promoting the FTM internationally and leading on Membership Services.

He was a prominent member of the Core Group which set up and delivered the internationally renowned Diploma in Travel Medicine, initially at the University of Glasgow, then Health Protection Scotland, then RCPSG. Many cohorts of FTM Diplomates will testify to his teaching, support and shining example as a Travel Medicine practitioner, including myself in the very first cohort of students back in 1995.

After completing his term of office as Vice Dean, Jon continued his active involvement with the College:

- The excellent Lock Room display cataloguing the history of Travel Medicine (much of it made in Glasgow) was conceived and brought to fruition by Jon and Carol Parry
- Since 2015 Jon has been the RCPSG representative on and a Trustee of, the Scottish National Memorial to David Livingstone.
- He also served as a medically qualified panellist for the Ministry of Justice in Scotland and also for the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service in the Fitness to Practice Directorate.

Jon Cossar was and still is a significant figure in Travel Medicine. He has also made major contributions to the life and standing of the College.