



# TOOLS OF THE TRADE

## Poems for doctors

Scottish Poetry Library



University of St Andrews

This year, for the fourth year, all Scottish medical graduates have been gifted *Tools of the Trade*, a small pocket-sized book of poetry published by the Scottish Poetry Library and intended to provide support for new doctors as they embark on their very demanding new professional lives. The collection also serves to encourage their creativity. In addition it feeds into the work of introducing medical humanities into Scottish medical schools curricula which is being championed by a group of which the deans of all the medical schools are members -

[www.scottishmedicalhumanities.org](http://www.scottishmedicalhumanities.org)

*Poems for doctors* is a collaboration between Scottish Poetry Library and the School of Medicine at the University of St Andrews.

*Poems for doctors* builds on the book, using a blog to publish short seasons of films of readings of some of the poems online. The readings are made by medical professionals or students who have chosen one poem for particular reasons or associations that they explain in the films.

A video installation of the readings has also been on site at the School of Medicine in St Andrews and shown to several conferences and seminars.

Please visit, listen, enjoy and pass on!

[med.st-andrews.ac.uk/poemsfordoctors](http://med.st-andrews.ac.uk/poemsfordoctors)

*Coming shortly! Online Poetry Slam!*

As part of the next season of readings later this year, organisers are planning an online poetry slam where authors can submit video readings of their own work to a competition. The slam will be open to students and staff at all Scottish medical schools. Find out more soon at -

[med.st-andrews.ac.uk/poemsfordoctors](http://med.st-andrews.ac.uk/poemsfordoctors)

*take #three*

Work is about to begin on the third edition of *Tools of the Trade* (the second edition sold out!) and the Poetry Library has also recently published an equivalent beautiful little book for teachers, *Learn for the future*, available through their website -

[www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org)



“...As doctors we are often present for some of the most profound moments in people’s lives, and I think this poem captures that beautifully.”

Scan the QR code here to access [med.st-andrews.ac.uk/poemsfordoctors](http://med.st-andrews.ac.uk/poemsfordoctors) and watch a compilation of readings prepared especially for this event!

“...I think it reflects the appreciation me and I believe many doctors hold for those who’ve gone before.”



“...it reminds me what a privilege it is to look after somebody in the final days or moments of their life.”

