

Honorary Degree Conferment – Prof Hugh Barr

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Professor Hugh Barr for the award of an honorary doctorate for his outstanding contribution to interprofessional education.

Interprofessional education is where students from different professions – nursing, medicine, social work, paramedics – learn together to improve the way they communicate and collaborate for the benefit of patients. It is widely used around the world to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to deliver effective and safe team-based care.

Hugh was born in Nottingham where he spent most of his childhood, except for periods in County Durham and Northern Ireland during the 2nd World War to avoid the bombing of the city. After school, he was one of the last cohorts to complete a compulsory 3-year National Service. For Hugh, this was in the Army: the Ordinance Corps.

After university, he qualified in social work, working as a probation officer before engaging in research at the Home Office. During his career in social work, Hugh became increasingly interested in how poor practice could be improved by better collaboration between professionals – supported by opportunities for shared education and training.

However, Hugh's real contribution to this area came after his retirement. Unlike other retirees who spend time relaxing, he launched a new career, working tirelessly to promote interprofessional education across the UK and around the world. Hugh was an 'early adopter' – being one of the first people to champion this activity and help others see its potential for creating collaborative learning experiences that can improve care.

A true pioneer of interprofessional education, he has provided leadership, support and guidance to countless people (policy makers, practitioners, educators and students) to ensure that it is now a core part of the training that universities across the world – in countries such as America, Norway, South Africa – give to their students.

As well as influencing governments in this country and abroad (for example in Canada) over the past 25 or so years, Hugh's work has also built an invaluable knowledge-base about interprofessional education. His editorship of numerous books and journals, most notably the *Journal of Interprofessional Care* has ensured key knowledge and information has been shared locally, nationally and internationally.

Indeed, he has always been generous in sharing his time and expertise, which has inspired a generation of students, practitioners and researchers (including myself) to become engaged in interprofessional activities. Hugh's unique influence on this area has inevitably produced in a long list of honours and awards. For example, universities in Australia, Japan and Finland have recognised his expertise in awarding him honorary professorships.

In closing, given such dedication and inspiration, I will say that there is no one more appropriate than Hugh for this honorary doctorate for such a remarkable contribution to interprofessional education.