

# Documents

## Letters and documents in the history of the Edinburgh Renal Unit

[NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS](#) are on a [separate page](#)

Images on this page may take some time to download because of their size.

### 12th February 1958

Letter from the secretary of the medical staff to the secretary of gynaecological staff, stating that the provision of a modern artificial kidney in the Royal Infirmary would be desirable as a therapeutic weapon in the treatment of renal disease and extra-renal disease such as barbiturate poisoning. From the [Lothian Health Service Archive](#), with permission.

*Clinical Medicine Office,  
Royal Infirmary,  
Edinburgh.* 12th Feb. 1958

The Secretary,  
Gynaecological Staff,  
Royal Infirmary,  
Edinburgh, 3.

Dear Sir,

Provision of a Modern Artificial Kidney in the  
Royal Infirmary

At a meeting of the Physicians of the Royal Infirmary, the question of the provision of an Artificial Kidney for the Hospital was discussed.

It was felt that such a piece of apparatus was desirable, not only from the point of view of research but also as a practical therapeutic weapon in the treatment of renal and extra renal disease, such as barbiturate poisoning.

An artificial kidney would obviously be of interest and use, not only to the medical members of the staff but to surgeons and gynaecologists. It was suggested that the surgeons and gynaecologists might care to co-operate with the physicians in setting up a small, exploratory committee to discuss the project and to go into the question of the best type of apparatus, suitable accommodation, the sort of team required for its supervision and any other pertinent matters.

It was suggested that the committee might consist of three physicians:-

Dr. Gilchrist - as Chairman  
Dr. Macgregor  
Dr. Robson

with three members of the Surgical Staff and three members of the Gynaecological Staff, together with the Medical Superintendent, and have powers to co-opt anyone with special knowledge of the subject.

Could you be so good as to discuss the matter with your committee and let me know if they would be willing to co-operate?

If I hear from you in the affirmative and giving the names of your nominees, Dr. Macgregor will arrange for the first meeting to be convened.

Yours sincerely,



A. Halliday Croom,  
Secretary of the Medical Staff.

## 15th February 1962

Letter from the treasurer to the secretary regarding the isolation unit at RIE ward 23 to be named "the Isolation Unit". From the [Lothian Health Service Archive](#), with permission.

**THE ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH  
AND ASSOCIATED HOSPITALS**

Incorporating  
The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh      Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School  
Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion      Hearing Aid Centre and Orthoptic Clinic,  
Convalescent House, Corstorphine      Cambridge Street  
Beechmount Hospital, Murrayfield      Queen Mary Maternity Home

T. W. HURST, F.H.A., A.C.I.S.  
Secretary and Treasurer

Telephone:  
Office FOU 2477

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY

EDINBURGH, 3.....15th February 1962

M5/H/T

A.I.S. Macpherson, Esq., F.R.C.S.,  
Hon. Secretary,  
Medical and Dental Staff Committee,  
R.I.E.

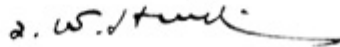
Dear Mr. Macpherson,

Proposed Isolation Unit at Ward 23

The Board has given further consideration to the title to be given to the proposed isolation unit at Ward 23. It has now been decided that the title "Isolation Unit" should be used for the four-bedded unit to be provided at Ward 23 for the use of patients receiving treatment from the Artificial Kidney Unit.

I shall be glad if you will bring this decision to the notice of the Medical and Dental Staff Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Secretary and Treasurer

**20th December 1966**

Letter from the secretary to the treasurer regarding the provision of home dialysis apparatus. From the [Lothian Health Service Archive](#), with permission

SOUTH-EASTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD, SCOTLAND  
 11 Drumsheugh Gardens,  
 Edinburgh 3.

20th. December, 1966.

Dear Mr. Hurst,

Intermittent Dialysis for Chronic Renal Failure -  
 Provision of Home Dialysis Apparatus

The Regional Board have given consideration to a proposal from Dr. J.S. Robson (contained in a letter dated 11th. October, 1966, copy enclosed) that a pilot study of home dialysis be undertaken in this Region and I understand that Dr. Graham has been in touch with you informally about this already.

The Regional Board have agreed that, because of the delay in delivery of equipment, a tentative order for three machines should be placed at once.

The details of the organisation of a home dialysis service will of course require further consideration and discussion and consultation with the Local Authority and General Practitioners will take place at a later date. In addition the implications of this arrangement in regard to revenue expenditure will require to be determined.

Meantime it is hoped that your Board of Management will agree to undertake the day-to-day administration of such a service from the hospital aspects. If so, I should be grateful if you would immediately place a tentative order for three machines for use in home dialysis. Dr. Robson has recommended that the most appropriate type of machine at present available is the R.S.P., Single Path-Haemodialyser, manufactured by Travenal, and supplied, I understand, through Baxter Laboratories.

It is understood that one machine of this type has been ordered on behalf of a Commonwealth Government and is to be delivered to the Royal Infirmary for trial in about one month's time. This being so, Dr. Robson has asked that further discussions concerning the use of this type of equipment in a patient's home should take place only after the staff have had some experience of using the equipment. A meeting will therefore be arranged from this office in early February, 1967 for this purpose.

I should be grateful if, as soon as possible, you would confirm that the order for the machines has been placed and let me have the latest estimated delivery date.

Yours sincerely,

"W.L. Douglass"

Secretary.

T.W. Hurst, Esq., J.P., F.H.A., A.C.I.S.,  
 Secretary and Treasurer,  
 Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

**7th June 1967**

Letter from the senior administrative medical officer to the medical superintendent regarding consultant staff employment for the new dialysis unit at the Medical Renal Unit building. From the [Lothian Health Service Archive](#), with permission.

H 5)

SOUTH-EASTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD, SCOTLAND.

11, DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS,  
EDINBURGH, 3.

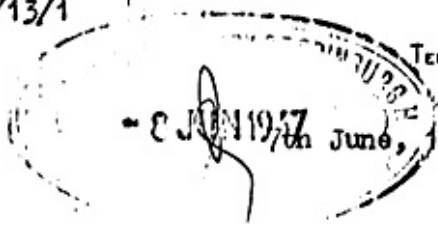
*Red. Elton*

*S40*

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE IDC/550/2  
YOUR REFERENCE IS \_\_\_\_\_

260/13/1

TEL: CALEDONIAN 1341.



- 19 JUN 1967

Dear Dr. Francis,

Consultant Medical Staff  
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

As you are aware plans to provide 10 places for chronic dialysis in a new building at the Royal Infirmary are well advanced and it is anticipated that this unit will be brought into commission about the middle of 1968. The Regional Board have been authorised to appoint an additional consultant to the Royal Infirmary at that time and I would be glad to know whether it is considered that this new post should be one of "consultant in general medicine with special knowledge in renal diseases". In addition I would be glad to have the views of the physicians concerning the integration of this appointment into the general medical staffing pattern of the Royal Infirmary and the scale of facilities which could be made available to the person appointed.

I understand that, at present, a number of beds from within the overall allocation to general medicine are available for the investigation and treatment of renal conditions at the Royal Infirmary and I assume that these facilities will continue to be provided. I should be glad to know, however, whether or not the physicians would consider that these beds, as pertains in some other special interests, should be dispersed over a number of medical charges. It has been stated that a total of about 15 beds would be required for this purpose (i.e. in support of the renal dialysis service) at the Royal Infirmary.

I would add that the University are also being consulted, for their interest in regard to the development and staffing of this service.

Yours sincerely,

*H.A. Reuben*

Senior Administrative Medical Officer.

Dr. S.G.J. Francis,  
Medical Superintendent,  
Royal Infirmary,  
Auriston Place,  
EDINBURGH, 3.

*I have discussed your proposal  
concerning the need for a  
specialist physician & have  
discussed the staff  
requirements*

## 1967-8

An extract from the visitors' book at the Department of Clinical Surgery, RIE (kindly provided by Professor K James). The arrows highlight J Myburgh and Professor Roy Calne's visits to the department.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	NATIONALITY	
24.5.1967	Ian Goldstein	Lodz (Poland), Al. Kosciuszki 55	Polish	Nuffield Department of Clinical Surgery, RIE, 1002, Westbourne St
14.6.67	Bruno Basso	RPAH, Sydney, New South Wales	Canadian	
12/12/67	Saimon S. Kedar	Jerusalem, Israel	Israeli	Dept of Surgery, Histology, Histopathology, Dept of Histology, Histopathology, Dept of Histology, Histopathology
12/7/67.	J.A. Myburgh	Johannesburg, S Africa.	S. African	
10/9/67	D.P. Westbank	du Ruit 19	Dutch	
3/11/1967	近藤厚 (A. KONDO)	Nagasaki Univ. School of Medicine, Sakamoto-Machi, Nagasaki, Japan	JAPAN	Dept of Histology
2.2.1967	B. KOLTOVOI	USSR MOSCOW	RUSSIAN	science writer "Izvestia"
09/11/67	M. ROSTARCHUK	USSR LUTSK	RUSSIAN	"Nodolya"
9.10.67	L. Vosnesensky	USSR, L'Oban	Russian	"Zvezda"
9/11/67	N. BEZRADIIN	USSR NOVOSIBIRSK	Russian	"Soviet Science"
9.11.67	Z. Aivazian	USSR ERIVAN	Armenian	"Soviet Science"
3/11/67	Cyril O. Gladkov	USSR Moscow	Russian	"Technique for the Youth"
26.01.67	R. Calne	Rangin Park Chest Hospital, New Lambton, NSW, Australia	UK	Magazine
27.10.67	Roy Calne	Cambridge	UK	
27.10.67	John Humphrey	N.I.M.R., Hill Hall	U.K.	
22.1.68	Sheffer	16, Magpie Clack, Kibbutz Ein	U. A. R.	Surgeon General
7.1.68	Dr. Spender-Taylor	Mayo Clinic Rochester, Minn	USA	

## 29th March 1967

A letter from the secretary to the treasurer regarding the proposed Nuffield Transplantation Surgery Unit at the Western General Hospital. From the [Lothian Health Service Archive](#), with permission.



1903  
①

SOUTH-EASTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD, SCOTLAND.

11, DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS,  
EDINBURGH, 3.

PD/100/5  
IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE 550/1  
YOUR REFERENCE IS \_\_\_\_\_

11, DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS, EDINBURGH, 3
30 MAR 1967
Mr B.
Med C/16 ✓
9/16

TEL: CALZOOONIAN 1341.

29th March, 1967.

Dear Mr. Hurst,

Renal Medicine - Policy


The Regional Board have given consideration to the policy for the development of renal medicine in the Edinburgh Area and have agreed, subject to periodic review and having regard to the national policy decision that the Nuffield Transplantation Surgery Unit, when completed, would serve the whole of Scotland:-

- (a) That the pattern of development of renal medicine should not be defined at present but that the service should be allowed to evolve according to the needs. This could be achieved by accepting that physicians broadly trained in general or paediatric medicine should devote a varying proportion of their time to the care of patients suffering from renal diseases.
- (b) That to meet the present and immediate future requirements of renal medicine in the South-Eastern Region certain facilities would require to be provided both at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and at the Western General Hospital, as follows:-
- (i) beds for the investigation and treatment of renal conditions;
  - (ii) day beds for out-patient investigation;
  - (iii) out-patient consultative clinics;
  - (iv) an area of about 10 places for chronic dialysis;
  - (v) supporting investigation services;
  - (vi) research laboratories;
  - (vii) office accommodation.

At the Royal Infirmary there would be required an area for acute dialysis including associated laboratory services.

At the new Sick Children's Hospital the facilities listed at (i), (ii) and (iii) above would be required.

Yours sincerely,

  
Secretary.

T.M. Hurst, Esq., J.P., F.H.A., A.C.I.S.,  
Secretary and Treasurer,  
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Associated  
Hospitals Board of Management,  
Royal Infirmary,  
Lauriston Place,  
Edinburgh 3.

See also [Newspaper cuttings](#)