

Welcome to Edinburgh!

On behalf of the Organising Committee, it is my very great pleasure to welcome you to Edinburgh for this thirty seventh International Congress for the History of Pharmacy. The British Society for the History of Pharmacy is delighted to be hosting this important event. This is itself an historic occasion, as the International Congress has never before been held in Scotland.

The British Society for the History of Pharmacy is one of the twenty member organisations of the International Society for the History of Pharmacy. It was founded in 1967 and today has nearly three hundred members. It acts as a focus for the development and promotion of the history of pharmacy in Great Britain, by publishing a quarterly journal *Pharmaceutical Historian*, by holding regular evening meetings and organising visits, and by holding an annual weekend conference.

The theme of this congress is 'People and Places'. We are delighted that together the location and the theme have drawn to Edinburgh over two hundred participants from more than twenty five countries. Over the next few days almost one hundred papers or posters will be presented, and there will in addition be plenty of opportunities to get together socially, to renew old friendships, to acquire new information and insights in the history of pharmacy, and to re-invigorate our enthusiasm for it.

This year is also the five hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and we are delighted to be sharing a number of commemorative events with them. Edinburgh is a beautiful and friendly city, with much to do and see, and we hope that you will take time to explore this part of Scotland, and to enjoy the hospitality of the people of this area. I wish you all a very enjoyable and productive congress.

Dr Stuart Anderson

President of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy