

Sir Malcom Macnaughton

Professor Sir Malcom Macnaughton, past President of the British Fertility Society, died on July 1st, aged 91.

Callum Macnaughton was the Muirhead Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the University of Glasgow from 1970 to 1990. He was one of those redoubtable professors who could excel at any aspect of his specialty and who inspired young doctors to follow in his career. He was a Glaswegian by education, Glasgow Academy and Glasgow University where he graduated in 1948. He worked closely with Sir Dugald Baird in Aberdeen, as lecturer, and with James Walker in Dundee as senior lecturer in the University of St Andrews. In both these posts he embraced the belief that women should not find themselves prisoners of their own fertility and supported the provision in the Health Service of contraception, sterilisation and abortion. He supported similar services in the West of Scotland following his appointment there to the chair in Glasgow.

Professor Macnaughton was hugely instrumental in helping the cause of those women who were infertile and was involved in the early clinical trials of Homan Menopausal Gonadotrophins for the treatment of anovulation. He was an early advocate of laparoscopy and helped to introduce this technique to gynaecological practice in Scotland. He was an ideal choice to be a member of Dame Mary Warnock's Committee of Enquiry into Human Fertilisation and Embryology where he was the only clinician. He worked tirelessly to explain the need for these new techniques to politicians, fellow doctors and the general public. His efforts played a major part in the introduction of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act of 1990. He was a member of the Interim Licensing authority and continued to advise the HFEA as an inspector for some years. His huge contribution was recognised by the BFS in 1992 when Callum was elected President of the Society.

Callum Macnaughton was influential also in the field of Obstetrics. His clinical skills were much appreciated personally by those he delivered but he also introduced to Scotland an Annual Perinatal Mortality Review which derived from clinical research with his colleagues in Glasgow. He was a staunch supporter of the College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and was President of that College from 1984 to 1987. In 1986 he was knighted for his services in medicine.

In later years Callum became Chairman of Tenovus, Scotland, and helped raise money for research in each of its medical schools. He enjoyed golf and fishing and, as always, all the aspects of family life with his five children and his grandchildren. He and Margaret Ann, who survives him, enjoyed some 61 years of happy and fulfilled life together.