

## David Haslam

Vice-Chancellor, Provost, Colleagues and friends, graduates and graduands and their families - today the University will award an honorary doctorate to Prof David Haslam CBE, the current Chair of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

David attended Monkton Combe School, Somerset from 1962 to 1967; and the medical school of this University from 1967 to 1972, winning both the Interfaculty Studies Essay Prize and the Pathological Studies Essay Prize. After graduating, he worked in various locations in the Midlands; at Warneford Hospital, Leamington Spa; North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary; Birmingham Maternity Hospital; Birmingham Children's Hospital; the Midland Nerve Hospital; Birmingham General Hospital; and as a trainee GP in Stratford on Avon. In 1976 he moved to Ramsey in Cambridgeshire where he was a General Practitioner at Ramsey Health Centre until 2011. Whilst a GP appointment in the flat lands of Cambridgeshire sounds like a pleasant place for a long and quite relaxing career, David Haslam's has been anything but, and he served the medical profession both locally and nationally through a wide range of activities. These are simply too many to list in the context of an oration such as this, but notable amongst them are as Patron of National Association for Parents of Sleepless Children; Vice President GP Writers Association; Visiting Professor in Primary Health Care de Montfort University, Leicester; Chairman of Council of Royal College of General Practitioners; Vice-Chairman, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges; President – Royal College of General Practitioners; National Clinical Adviser, Care Quality Commission; Chair of the NICE Evidence Accreditation Advisory Board; Member of NHS Information Governance Review; Past President – British Medical Association. And I could continue for several more minutes in the same vain. Working as a GP and holding such a wide range of responsibilities outside that work is, to my mind, quite staggering. Moreover he has been at the centre of the major changes that the NHS has undergone in recent years. Currently, as well as being the current chair of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, he is also, amongst other appointments, the President of the Ramsey & District Cancer Research Campaign; Chair of the NQB Quality Information Committee and Chair of Scrutiny Group for Review of Work Capacity.

In addition, and again I would suggest quite unlike the majority of GPs, he has a significant written output, aimed at both his peers through papers in relevant journals, and also to the general public through a number of books such as SLEEPLESS CHILDREN; EAT IT UP!; TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN; MOTHERCARE GUIDE FOR THE EXPECTANT FATHER; STRESS FREE PARENTING and THE PRACTICAL PARENTING A-Z GUIDE TO CHILDRENS' HEALTH many of which have been translated into a wide variety of languages and distributed around the world. On reflection it might have been good if I had come across these somewhat earlier in my life, and perhaps my cynical view of some of these topics – such as “Travelling with Children – don't do it” or “Stress free parenting – pull the other one” – might not have developed. And as well as these books David has also written columns for popular magazines, and appeared on a large number of radio and television programmes.

David is a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners; the Royal College of Physicians; the Academy of Medical Educators; the Faculty of Public Health; the Royal Society of Medicine; and the Society of Medical Writers. In 2004 he was awarded the CBE for services to healthcare.

Although it is perhaps difficult to conceive, David also has interests outside medicine – spanning photography, music, travel, skiing, and watching cricket. He took up running in 2005, ran the London Marathon in 2006, and has subsequently completed two other half marathons and numerous 10k events. He is married with two adult children. His wife Barbara, works as a Community Paediatric Physiotherapist, whilst his son is an author and journalist, and his daughter is a General Practitioner.

Vice-Chancellor, Provost, for a life lived to the full in the service of others, both his patients and those in wider and national community. I present to you and to the University Prof David Haslam CBE, for the degree of Doctor of the University, *honoris causa*.