



Dr Jaswant Singh Bilkhu DL., F.R.C.G.P **President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society 2006**

**MedChi inaugural address;
'My early years, general practice and beyond'**

Postgraduate qualifications

MB.ChB, University of Manchester

DCH; D Obst RCO; FP Cert

MRCGP; Cert Comm Paed; FRCGP

MSc (Clinical Education), University of Nottingham

Background, Education and Medical Career

Dr Jas Bilkhu of Indian origin arrived in this country in 1960 from Punjab at the age of 13 with little knowledge of English. Despite this, he achieved Head Boy status at his school in Nottingham and then went to Manchester University to study Medicine, returning back to Nottingham where he completed his Vocational Training for General Practice. He was the first trainee to complete his training on the Nottingham VTS and then played a major role in

developing vocational training, such that it became one of the highly sought-after schemes in the country.

As a GP he established and headed the five partner General Practice in Radcliffe on Trent for 27 years, before moving on to a teaching and training role at the University of Nottingham.

As **Postgraduate Medical Dean for the East Midlands** area he led a large team overseeing the postgraduate training of doctors in all specialties and some allied health professionals. He chaired numerous local, regional and national committees and was Provost and Chair for the Vale of Trent faculty of the RCGP.

At the UK's Royal College of general practitioners, he was a member of the Postgraduate Training Board, the Professional Advisory Committee and an assessor for 'Fellowship by Assessment'. He was a Lead Visitor to Deaneries for the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training and Leader of visiting teams for PMETB/GMC.

Jas established and ran the world's first Diploma in Prison Medicine which brought the education of prison doctors into mainstream medicine.

At the Queens Medical Centre (QMC), he served as a GP member of the Medical Advisory Committee and the Ethics Committee.

He was the foundation Chair of the Nottinghamshire 'GP and Practice Staff Education and Training Board' and also the Pastoral Network for the Nottinghamshire Local Medical Committee.

MedChi Presidency

Jas was elected as President of the Nottinghamshire Medico-Chirurgical Society in 2006 which he served for a year. For his year's lecture program, he assembled expert speakers from around the UK and abroad. His choice reflected his passion for

the environment, better understanding between diverse communities and faiths and highlighted his concern for the minorities. He looked forward to the future of Medical training and explored the developing tensions between the NHS and private sector. Some of his talks also emphasised patient motivation and self-care.

Charity and social welfare work

Along with a career as a Doctor, Teacher and an Education Manager, Dr Bilkhu continued his charity and social welfare work. He was the founding President of the very first Indian Youth Club in Nottingham, supporting various temples and bringing the Indian culture to the host community in the form of Plays, Music and Dance.

Jas worked with various voluntary organisations including an ambassadorial role for the Nottinghamshire Hospice, a Patron for Marie Curie and as a governor at the Nottingham Girls' High School.

He was a charter member of the Nottingham West Lions Club and an active member of "The Lionheart Project" which involved opportunistic screening checks for hypertension and diabetes in the Asian community. He chaired the British Indian Business Forum (BIBF) for three years.

In 2005 he received The Glory of India Award.

Jas was the **High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire** for 2015/16 and a Deputy Lieutenant (DL) for Nottinghamshire and chaired their Commonwealth Committee bringing together diverse communities in Nottinghamshire.

There are two poetry books published in his name, one in his native language Punjabi and the other in English.

Reflections

Dr Jas Bilkhu is proud to have had the opportunity to lead and facilitate a supportive environment for the local medical community, and also to share his cultural background.

Jas's legacy also includes his wife, Baldish, a local dentist for many years, and a son, and a daughter, who are both local GPs.



submitted by JB/CMA 9/3/2026