

## **Robert Loudon Brown**

### **"The Specialist in Public Health come reflective observations over the last 5 years"**

Following on from the UK Tri-partite Group's definition, and the United Kingdom Departments' recommendations on specialist practice in public health, a number of Specialists in Public Health were appointed within the British Isles.

The majority of those appointments were made within health authorities and primary Care Trusts in England with further appointments in Wales, Scotland, the Isle of Man and on other adjacent islands.

In 2000 the author was offered an appointment in the Western Isles on this then emerging grade, but subsequently accepted a post the following year within the Public Health Directorate of the Department of Health and Social Security of the Government on the Isle of Man.

With the advent of the Voluntary Register for Public Health Specialists, consideration of "Specialist Specialist" registration, and developing "Public Health Practitioner" posts within nursing and other grades of staff the author reflects on the current situation and highlights some issues that have to be addressed if we are to have a truly effective multi-disciplinary public health workforce.

*Brought up in rural Lanarkshire, Loudon entered Professional Photography in 1957 and then trained in Medical Photography at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and the Glasgow College of Building and Printing.*

*Appointed a Senior Photographer at the University of Glasgow in 1963, he moved later that year to Glasgow South—Western Hospitals at the Southern General Hospital in Govan. He latterly became Head of Medical Audio-Visual Services and Regional Chief Medical Photographer before succeeding Gabriel Donald, MBE, in 1979, as Senior Lecturer and Director of Medical Illustration for the University of Glasgow.*

*A Registered Medical Illustration Practitioner (1990), Past National Chairman of the Institutes of Medical Illustrators in Scotland and of the United Kingdom, Loudon is a Medical Photography Graduate (1969) and Fellow of both the British Institute of Professional Photography (1994) and the Biological Communications Association of North America (1984). He was International Chairman for the First World Congress in Biomedical Communication held in the USA in 1994.*

*He graduated MPH (1991) and MPhil (1993), from the University of Glasgow, and holds a DMS (1975) from Strathclyde Graduate Business School and a European Postgraduate Diploma in Education and Training (1994) from the Universities of Copenhagen and Glasgow. He has held academic appointments at Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian and the Johns Hopkins Universities.*

*From 1995 to 2001 Loudon was Depute, then Health Promotion Allana'eer, and latterly Health Promotion Strategy Adviser to the Western Isles Health Board in Scotland. He is currently a Specialist in Public Health based within the Chief Executive's Office, Department of Health and Social Security, Isle of Man Government.*