

Annual McGirr Lecture

“From bedside to legacy”: My story as a nurse

Alison Bunce (CEO, MSc, MBA, BEM)

Friday 10th October 2025

10:00am – 12:15pm

Senate Room, Gilbert Scott Building

Zoom link:

<https://uofglasgow.zoom.us/j/81256090578?pwd=WJrvmwaMiSWmA5XylnAhof0iWEShHJ.1>

Annual McGirr Lecture

Welcome

The McGirr Lecture is a highlight in the Nursing & Health Care School calendar and affords us, each year, time to reflect on some activities and achievements and to hear from inspirational and influential figures in the field of nursing and health care. This year is no exception. Alison Bunce's keynote address, *'From bedside to legacy: My story as a nurse'*, offers a reflection on themes that are profoundly relevant to nurses and the communities they serve. The McGirr Lecture is now in its 22nd year and remains a valued and popular event. We welcome attendees from local, national and international settings, with our audience expanded and made more inclusive by use of a hybrid in-person and online format.

This event will be enriched by the variety of contributors, whether students, distinguished guests, or staff. We invite you to sit back and enjoy the programme, to contribute through question and answer or via the chat function if you wish (or to contact us for discussions afterwards) and, we hope, to take away some food for thought.

Professor Eileen Cowey

Head of the Nursing & Health Care School

Ranked 1st for Nursing in the UK, Complete University Guide 2026

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Professor Edward McCombie McGirr



Professor Edward McCombie McGirr held the Muirhead Chair of Medicine at the University of Glasgow from 1961 until his retirement in 1981. He also served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine from 1974. A distinguished physician and academic of national standing, Professor McGirr was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1978.

His strong advocacy for nursing education played a pivotal role in the establishment of the School of Nursing and Midwifery in 1978, which was later renamed the School of Nursing & Health Care. The McGirr family has continued this legacy of support through various contributions, including the establishment of the McGirr Prize, awarded annually at graduation.

In recognition of the family's enduring support, the Annual McGirr Lecture was inaugurated in 2003. This event offers a valuable opportunity for students across all years of the Bachelor of Nursing (Honours) programme to connect with fellow students, academic staff, and invited guests, including members of the McGirr family.



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Alison Bunce



Achieving a Masters (MSc) from the University of Glasgow in Palliative Care and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of the West of Scotland, Alison integrated theory with her community nursing experience to be able to inspire and coordinate an extraordinary set of community activities, supporting those most in need by founding Compassionate Inverclyde.

This community led initiative is an evolving experiment in, and movement to address, the opportunities and challenges of contemporary society. Compassionate Inverclyde's approach is focused on 'ordinary people helping ordinary people in ordinary ways' when confronted with crisis, illness, suffering and other difficulties. It is a positive, pragmatic way of inspiring and mobilising people's energy, better nature and willingness to help.

Alison is a King's Champion Award recipient and received a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the 2025 New Year honours list, as well as being awarded the Queen's Nurse Award in 2019, which honoured her as a nursing leader and a role model for best practice and was the Royal College of Nursing's Nurse of the Year in 2022.



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McGirr Lecture 2025 Running Order

Chair- Professor Matthew Walters

Head of the School of Medicine, Dentistry & Nursing

10:00 (17:00 Singapore)

Welcome

Professor Eileen Cowey, Head of the Nursing & Health Care School

10:05 (17:05)

Keynote Address:

“From bedside to legacy: My story as a nurse”

Alison Bunce (MSc, MBA, BEM), CEO and founder of Compassionate Inverclyde.

10:45 (17:45)

Keynote Question and Answer Session

10:55 (17:55)

Introduction to BN Student Presentations

Dr Anne Rowat, Deputy BN (Hons) Programme Director, Nursing & Health Care School

11:00 (18:00)

Student Presentations:

Universitas 21 in Dublin and Chile

Roisin McVeigh and Lauren Crighton-Moyes, BN Hons programme

and

Experiences of Nursing in Tanzania

Kirsty Dougall and Abbie McGuigan, BN Hons programme

11:20 (18:20)

Introduction to BSc (Hons) Student Presentation

Dr Kamala Devi, Programme Director BSc

11:25 (18:25)

Student Presentation:

Reflections on Overseas Immersion
Abdul Hafiz and Hannah Tan, BSc (Hons) Nursing programme

11:45 (18:45)

First Year Prize AY2024-25

Dr Rosemary Mullen, BN (Hons) Year 1 Lead, Nursing & Health Care School

11:55 (18:55)

BN2 Public Health Poster Prize

Dr Mandy Allen, BN (Hons) Year 2 Lead, Nursing & Health Care School

12:05 (18:05)

Closing remarks from Singapore

Dr Eugene Teoh, Programme Lead BSc (Hons) Nursing, Singapore Institute of Technology

12:10 (17:10)

Closing remarks from Glasgow

Dr Louise McCallum, BN (Hons) Programme Director, Deputy Head of Nursing & Health Care School



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