

Dr Mary Buchanan MRCS, LRCP, DFSRH

Dr Mary Buchanan, MRCS, LRCP, DFSRH, Life Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, Life Member of the British Medical Association and an Honorary Member of Soroptimist International (SI). Mary was in General Medical Practice from 1964-1989 with a special interest in the health of women and adolescents, having responsibility for the Well Woman Clinic, Adolescent Clinic and Cervical Screening Clinic, this last having a call and recall programme many years prior to the establishment of the national (NHS) system. She was an Occupational Health Physician with Marks and Spencer running cervical and breast screening programmes, and Clinical Assistant in a hospital breast cancer unit as a Breast Physician.



In 1993 Mary was instrumental in setting up EUROPA DONNA, the European Breast Cancer Coalition, and continues to serve in an active capacity in EUROPA DONNA UK. She co-chaired major European Breast Cancer Conferences with EUSOMA and EORTC. She was President of EUROPA DONNA from 1999-2004 and represented the Coalition in the European and Italian Parliaments. From 1989-1999 she was Chairman of the Women's Nationwide Cancer Control Campaign, advocating health education programmes for prevention, early detection and screening of women's cancers. From 1995-1998 she was Chairman of the Cancer Education Group of Great Britain and Ireland, and UK National Representative at the Europe against Cancer Programme at the European Commission. In 1997 she was appointed to the UK Cervical Screening Action Group by the Chief Medical Officer to review all aspects of cervical screening. In 2001 she was presented with the European Woman of Achievement Award by the European Union of Women, UK. From 2003-2006 she was Member of the International Affairs Committee of ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncologists), becoming Emeritus Member of ASCO in 2011. In 2003 she was elected to the Council of the Open Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and was President from 2008-2010.

Mary has been a Soroptimist and member of SI Maidstone since 1967, and is now an Honorary Member with SI Medway and Maidstone. She has held leadership roles at local, national and international level. In 1991 she was Chairman of the Soroptimist International Convention. She assisted the President of Soroptimist International in making a successful application to the WHO for official relations in 1991, and from 1991-1995 she was International Co-ordinator for Health. Mary's involvement with the WHO whilst working on Female Genital Mutilation, Safe Motherhood and AIDS programmes continued during the SIAM (Soroptimist International AIDS Mediation) quadrennial project, which she led as International Liaison from 1995-2000. She was WHO Liaison for Soroptimist International from 2000-2003.

Mary has held a number of key roles with other voluntary organisations, including Chairman of Steering Committee for the Maidstone Volunteer Bureau from 1972-1975; Member and Past Chairman of the Board of Visitors of HM YOI and Women's Prison, East Sutton Park, Kent, from 1972-2000; Director and Chair of Trustees, Kent Cancer Trust, from 2002; and Honorary Vice President of Kent Branch, British Red Cross, following several years with Maidstone Red Cross Centre. In 2004 and 2015 she was made a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary Club of London for medical charity work, and in 2020 she was admitted as a Freeman of the City of London.

Mary is married to Dr John Scott Buchanan, JP, a physicist, and as well as family commitments enjoys gardening, walking, theatre and music. She has travelled extensively worldwide for professional and business purposes, for Soroptimist International and for pleasure.