Imhotep, Egyptian Polymath and Physician (fl. c. 2625 BC)

Imhotep, who lived around 2650-2600 BC, was an accomplished Egyptian polymath. He served the Third Dynasty's King Djoser as chancellor and high priest of the sun god, Ra, at Heliopolis. Regarded by some as the first architect, engineer, and physician in recorded history, Imhotep was one of the rare commoners to achieve divine status posthumously. He is credited with designing the Step Pyramid at Saqqara and possibly introducing columns in construction. Imhotep also wrote a medical text, the so-called Edwin Smith Papyrus, notable for its absence of magical elements and including anatomical details, ailments, and treatments. Imhotep was deified as a god of medicine and healing two millennia following his death.

Credit: https://www.jstor.org/stable/community.24739719

HISTORICAL MEDICAL EXHIBITION LONDON

From the "History of the Gods of Egypt," by E. A. Wallis Budge, M.A., Litt.D.

I-EM-HETEP

ALSO CALLED IMHOTEP, IMOUTHES, IMHOTPOU

I-EM-HETEP ("He who cometh in peace"), the earliest known Egyptian deity of medicine and healing, was the good physician of gods and men. There is little doubt that he was a real personage, renowned for his skill in healing, who lived in the reign of Tser of the II Dynasty, and was afterwards deified. In the Wellcome Medical Diaries for 1902 and 1905, two early representations of I-Em-Hetep were reproduced. The above drawing of the deity is taken from an incised stone carving of a later period.