



# ASOHNS

The Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery

## **David Close RFD MB BS FRACS DCH**

David graduated MB BS in Adelaide in 1970 and after RMO years travelled to the UK where he embarked on ENT training as SHO at 3 hospitals then as registrar at University College Hospital, London.

He returned to a place on the Adelaide training rotation and having passed his FRACS in 1978, worked as Senior Registrar for a year at Flinders Medical Centre. He then commenced private practice and a VMO appointment at TQEH under Neville Minnis; whom he subsequently followed as Head of Unit for some years before handing over to PJ Wormald. He was the hospital's supervisor of the registrar training program for the then maximum period of 10 years.

Ear surgery was David's principal interest until the incredibly exciting experience of witnessing Professor Heinz Stammberger's demonstration of Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery in Melbourne in 1988. Realising the revolution that this would bring, David persuaded TQEH to buy all the necessary equipment, including a beam-splitting device to allow a registrar or supervising consultant to observe. As his fellow consultants were of the same mind and ability, trainees recognized that TQEH was where they would best learn FESS.

Using the cadaver heads available after Dean Southwood's annual facial plastics courses, David ran endoscopic sinus surgery dissection mini-courses for local consultants and registrars, ably assisted in the first course by his registrar at the time, Suren Krishnan.

These were the first regular FESS courses conducted in Australia, and the last was attended not only by interstate registrants but by PJ Wormald soon after his arrival in Australia. Hence they were the forerunners of PJ's own courses which commenced the following year and on which David was a dissection supervisor for 10 years and a lecturer on the early courses. David had played a significant part in the attraction of PJ and his family to Adelaide and his foundation professorial appointment to the conjoint chair of ORL-HNS of both Adelaide Universities, located at TQEH.

David has always been intensely interested in teaching, returning for several years after his initial retirement to TQEH and subsequently the RAH to supervise and teach registrar surgery. He continues to be a supervisor on the Dean Southwood Memorial annual Adelaide temporal bone dissection courses, and for nearly seven years since retirement from clinical practice, as an honorary senior lecturer, he has given many hours of instruction to medical students at Flinders University medical students, including those rural and remote students based at Victor Harbor and the Barossa Valley.

David has had a long involvement with the military, being commissioned as an infantry officer in the Adelaide University Regiment, then transferring to the Army Medical Corps and subsequently the RAAF Specialist Reserve, eventually reaching the rank of group captain and senior ENT advisor to the Australian Defence Force and being awarded the Reserve Forces Decoration. For many years he conducted clinics at RAAF base Edinburgh. He is currently working on the history of ENT surgery in South Australia.

For his contribution to enriching the specialty as teacher, trainer and leader and for his contribution to the evolution of endoscopic sinus surgery David Close is awarded the Society Medal for the Art and Science of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery.