



ASOHNS

The Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery

Neville Minnis MB BS FRCS FRACS

Neville graduated MB BS in Adelaide in 1963 and following two years as a Resident Medical Officer was an anatomy prosector in Hobart in 1966.

In 1966 he commenced ENT training at the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Grays Inn Road, London, and the London Hospital, gaining his FRCS in 1969 and a post as Senior Registrar at the Bristol Hospital and lecturer in ENT at the University of Bristol.

Neville and Lyn returned to Adelaide in 1971 to appointments as VMO at both the Adelaide Children's Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, obtaining his Australian Fellowship in 1972. When Brian Rolland retired Neville proceeded to lead a very happy unit at TQEH for many years, training registrars and then recruiting some of them to his department, all of whom he regarded as his proteges.

When Neville entered into practice, the age of super specialization had not yet arrived. Ever enthusiastic to learn new methods, he became an excellent all-round and innovative ENT and head and neck surgeon who kept himself up-to-date and in the forefront of knowledge in all surgical fields. A great believer in the team approach, his co-operative nature stimulated excellent working relationships with other departments. He organized a head and neck consultative group at TQEH and carried out major head and neck and skull base procedures. In conjunction with the neurosurgeons he performed trans-nasal hypophysectomies and posterior fossa acoustic neuroma surgery. His expertise included functional and cosmetic rhinoplasty and at its foundation he was on the executive of the Australian Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery. He was an enthusiastic teacher, ever ready with advice and help for trainees and consultants, always in his gentle manner of making suggestions. Younger colleagues called on him for help in doing difficult and complex procedures both in public and in private. His personal collection of surgical instruments was unrivalled.

Neville was perhaps best known as an early national leader in the field of laryngology and phonosurgery. With the advent of viewing on a monitor using camera and flexible endoscope, he established the first public hospital voice clinic in SA and encouraged and stimulated interaction with the Speech Pathology Department, obtaining funding for the first stroboscope, then purchasing similar equipment for his private practice. Neville commenced the first Australian botox clinic for spasmodic dysphonia, injecting the vocal cords using local anaesthetic and endoscopic control, with a neurologist performing EMG studies. Some patients even came from interstate. He had a CO2 laser installed at TQEH, being one of only 2 in public hospitals at that time. Neville had papers published on laryngology topics and spoke on videostroboscopy at an Annual Scientific Meeting. He was an early adopter of the Blom-Singer prosthesis after total laryngectomy.

In 1980 Neville played a major part in the establishment of the Otoneurologic Diagnostic Clinic, which ever since has provided premium audiological, vestibular function and facial nerve assessment services to all ENT practices in SA, as well as the fitting of hearing aids. He was a member of various committees of St Andrew's Hospital for many years, and a Board member for the last 10 years of his practice.

For his contribution, inspiring generations of surgeons in South Australia to embrace the breadth of the specialty and foster binding relationships with allied specialties, Neville Minnis is awarded the ASOHNS medal for distinguished service to the Society.