



Australian Pain Society

2023 DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

Awarded for services to the promotion,
treatment and science of pain
management and lifelong contribution
to the Australian Pain Society.





Dr Matthew Crawford

MB.BS (Hons) FANZCA, FFPMANZCA, FCIM

Dr Matthew Crawford is a compassionate and dedicated clinician who has been a strong advocate for the care of children and young adults for many years.

Whilst we know him from his outstanding involvement in pain management, he is also a specialist in anaesthesia and intensive care, managing the procedural directorate at Sydney Children's Hospital (covering anaesthesia, surgery, trauma, pain, and palliative care).

Dr Crawford undertook his undergraduate degree in medicine at the University of NSW in 1975 before commencing anaesthetic training at the Prince of Wales (POW) and Prince Henry Hospitals in 1977, gaining his fellowship of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons in 1980. He then spent two and a half years pursuing additional training in anaesthesia expertise and studying the mechanics of High Frequency ventilation at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA before returning to Australia where he became a member of the anaesthetic department at POW and then the Prince of Wales Children's Hospital (POWCH).

Dr Crawford then undertook his intensive care qualifications, awarded in 1985, and he became involved in the development of the

paediatric cardiac anaesthesia and intensive care services at POWCH.

Dr Crawford was the founder of the pain clinic at the POW Hospital in 1986 and the Sydney Children's Hospital Pain Clinic in 1992, both of which remain in operation and provide ongoing care to both adults and children experiencing in pain.

He has been actively involved in the education of not only children and their families, but to many practitioners of all disciplines involved in the field and has long supported multidisciplinary research topics.

His involvement in research projects range from pain assessment, information provision, the impact of chronic paediatric pain on the family, pain management strategies to paediatric pain trajectories.

Dr Crawford has been a member of the Australian Pain Society since 1994. During this time, he has consistently delivered plenary lectures, chaired topical sessions, and presented at Pain in Childhood preconference workshops at our Annual Scientific Meetings.

He was an inaugural member and supporter for the formation of the joint Australian Pain Society and New Zealand Pain Society Pain in Childhood Special Interest Group in 2011.

Dr Crawford remains involved in paediatric anaesthesia, intensive care, and pain medicine and has widespread research interests in all these areas. He was a member of the Special Committee Investigating Deaths under Anaesthesia with the Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) of NSW, a member of the Agency for Clinical Innovation (Pain-Paediatric Clinical Advisory Group CEC), an examiner for the Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthesia (FPMANZCA), and a member of the Training Unit Accreditation Committee of FPMANZCA.

Dr Crawford has dedicated his professional life to the management of sick children not only here in Australia but for some of the poorest and most disadvantaged children overseas. He has been involved in numerous overseas medical missions providing cardiac surgical services to underprivileged children in third world countries, including Papua New Guinea (PNG), Burma, and Rwanda. Part of Dr Crawford's work in PNG has been being a member of the aid program 'Operation Open Heart' which has played a key role in developing the knowledge and skills of the Port Moresby medical team in general intensive care, cardiac care, and anaesthesia. Dr Crawford has also worked with the University of Papua New Guinea to develop a

formal training program at post graduate level for local staff and, to quote Dr Crawford, "they have the future of surgical medicine in their hands. It's our job to get that first generation up and running."

For his services to PNG he was awarded a Paul Harris fellowship by Rotary International in 2008, an honour bestowed on notable figures including former US President Jimmy Carter, US astronaut James Lovell of Apollo 13 fame, polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk, and UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar – esteemed company indeed. Dr Crawford was made a Member of the Order of Logohu by the PNG government in 2009.

I'm pleased to report that it has not been all work and no play – Matt has a passion for restoring vintage MG cars and has a number in his collection.