



The Australian Pain Society

2014  
*Distinguished  
Member  
Award*

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



### Frank New

MBBS (2nd Class Hons) UQ,  
FRANZCP, FFPMANZCA

Dr Frank New grew up in Brisbane and after completing secondary education he enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland, and graduated with second class honors in 1975.

Dr New spent the early postgraduate years broadening his professional and social horizons, with a period at Rockhampton and at Launceston General

Hospital, working with consultants and resident colleagues from different universities and cultural backgrounds. He spent 1979 as registrar in rehabilitation and geriatric medicine at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, which proved to be invaluable experience in multidisciplinary care for the aged and patients with spinal injury.

Psychiatric training followed, first at Princess Alexandra Hospital and then in Melbourne, with rotations to Prince Henry, Moore Park, and the Alfred. Because he was a psychiatry registrar at the time of some devastating Victorian bushfires, he gained specific experience in the care of burn-traumatized patients. Having returned to Queensland to complete his training, Dr New gained consultant status in late 1984. Shortly after began his long association with the Multidisciplinary Pain Management Unit at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, where

he exercised a special interest in the care of patients with pain related to burns and advanced cancer. He then became senior specialist in psychiatry during 2003.

Dr New quickly established an important role within the multidisciplinary pain management team where he consulted with Professor Stuart Pegg Adult Burns Unit patients

and staff. This challenging group of patients, including those who were disadvantaged, drug dependent and/or trauma victims benefited from his considered and thorough evaluations. Colleagues including pain medicine registrars, psychologists and occupational therapists, as well as psychiatry trainees appreciated the way he integrated clinical care and teaching. His collaboration with psychologists was exemplary, and several gained higher degrees with his guidance.

The RBWH multidisciplinary unit offered statewide services, so a teleconference process for rural clients and their GPs was developed and orchestrated by Dr New. Through this educational liaison with rural medical practitioners, the unit's patients and healthcare in remote areas benefited.

Dr New's interest in education lead him to roles with the Faculty of Pain Medicine - from its

inception. He contributed as an examiner from 2000-2013, served on the Education and Training Committee, and as a board member until 2013. He filled the demanding office of Assessor (Censor in Chief), responsible for ensuring that aspirant trainees in pain medicine had sufficient qualifications and vocational experience to justify entry to the formal trainee program. Whilst maintaining the standards of medical trainees, Dr New was also charged with ensuring that applicants were treated justly.

On a personal note, he contributed strongly to the growth of many Queensland trainees, and supported the faculty's recognition of his former psychiatry registrar, now consultant in pain medicine, Dr Kym Boon. Dr New promoted pain management skills within the medical student curriculum and psychiatry training program, and acted as an examiner for Fellowship of the Faculty of Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists candidates.

Dr New's skills in assessing and managing difficult clinical, ethical and legal situations lead to his involvement in medico legal cases, both as an expert witness and educator at training workshops. Similarly, he has strongly supported Professor Joan Lawrence in the continuation of the Doctors Health Advisory Service, and currently acts as its Chairman. This role entails providing training workshops for counsellors to teach about the problems facing medical doctors including ethical implications and the effects of issues on practitioners and their families.

Dr New's contribution to society extends outside the medical field to the area of student education. Whilst his sons attended Brisbane Grammar School, he found time to Chair the Parents and Friends Committee and contributed to the development of outreach programs. He is an enthusiastic supporter of a medical college in Vellore India and through a friend, the St Jude's School in Arusha, Tanzania.

Throughout his career, Dr New has been a quiet achiever, giving freely of his time, training and expertise to support colleagues and the multi-disciplinary field that is pain medicine. He is a worthy recipient of a Distinguished Member Award of the Australian Pain Society.