



ashm

Australasian HIV/AIDS Conference

ROLL OF HONOUR

For the 2009 conference the Roll of Honour was introduced as a new way of recognising the achievements of colleagues who have retired or reduced their involvement in the field of HIV in recent years. The Roll of Honour includes those who have had Memorial Sessions named were after them in previous conferences, ensuring we honour the memory of those people who have contributed greatly to the sector.

The full list of individuals on the roll of honour as at January 2013 includes:

Elizabeth Dax
Nicholas Deacon
Anne Mijch
Alex Wodak
David Bradford
Margaret McDonald
Phillip Medcalf
Peter Meece
Ron Lucas

The inductees are listed below with their bio at the time of induction.

2012 Inductees:

Nicholas Deacon

Nick Deacon has spent over twenty years researching the molecular basis of HIV drug resistance, regulation of HIV gene expression and characterisation of promoter structures.

Nick completed his PhD in immune response genetics at the University of London before accepting a post-doctoral position at the ANU. In 1985, Nick was appointed Head of Molecular Biology in the Research Centre for Cancer and Transplantation at The University of Melbourne, and pioneered PCR techniques and cloning to analyse structural genes, including CD4.

From 1989, Nick became Head of Molecular Biology, National Centre for HIV Virology Research at the Burnet Institute, Melbourne. He led the research team that determined the *nef* gene and LTR defects in attenuated strains of HIV infecting the Sydney Blood Bank Cohort and other long term infected people. This research was recognised as one of the Top Ten Medical Advances of 1996 by Harvard Medical School and reported in a major article published in Time Magazine.

Nick retired as inaugural Director of Research at Monash University Gippsland in 2003 and continues, in an adjunct position, supervising research of the regulation of HIV *asp* gene expression.

Elizabeth Dax

A scientist and physician expert in the quality management of laboratories and medical facilities, with extensive experience in project management, research, as a consultant, an educator, an auditor and as an adviser in policy development in Australia and developing areas.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- M.B., B.S. University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 1971
- Ph.D. Monash University, Victoria, Australia 1977
- M.D. University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 1989

Her areas of skill include: -

- Laboratory Medicine, its quality management and assurance: Standards, monitoring and evaluation:
As a immediate past director of the National Serology Reference Laboratory, Australia (NRL), for 19 years Elizabeth M. Dax (EMD) directed the Australian national programme for assessing and maintaining the quality of tests for transfusion transmitted infections and testing in facilities including the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and internationally, supporting quality in all Australian diagnostic laboratories, 100 reference laboratories in the South-east Asian and Western Pacific regions (funded partially by the World Health Organization, WHO). Laboratories with both diagnostic and blood transfusion safety mandates are involved. Programmes are established pertaining to their specific requirements and resources.
- Medicine including HIV:
Actively involved in Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (1990-2002), Executive Committee since 1999. 1986-90 clinician for National Institute on Drug Abuse, USA.
- Blood transfusion safety:
Through laboratory expertise and practical exposure, EMD is an expert in the area of blood safety and is frequently invited to contribute to national and international projects, consultancies and training programmes.
- Basic Research:
Continual involvement in basic research since 1974.
Actively pursues productive research programme in parallel with other areas of expertise. Projects range from basic biochemical research to clinical trials of a new drug to treat heroin addiction, from early immune responses to HIV infection to the most efficacious testing strategies in developing areas. Authored ~100 papers.
- Adviser on policy issues:
HIV and HCV testing policies, test kit regulation, surveillance programmes, blood safety programmes.
- Teaching experience:
Au fait with many areas of HIV medicine and science, epidemiology, policy, necessary for a broad-based teaching profile. Extensive expertise in communicating laboratory science, management and quality. Worked in diverse cultures and environments in South-east Asia, Africa, Europe.
- Peer review:

Reviewer of grant applications, programme and project grants, articles and proposals in Australia, for WHO, international journals, national granting bodies in Australia and earlier in the USA (member of neurosciences study section, NIH). Trained auditor.

- Programmes:
Established HIV testing systems and quality programmes in Thailand (1994-ongoing, now mature), Papua New Guinea (1993-2001 and now reestablishing), Indonesia (1995-ongoing), Eritrea (1994-1998), Cambodia, and Vietnam (ongoing). Involves working with laboratories and medical personnel from most peripheral to central locations.
- International quality assurance programme in HIV testing:
External quality assessment schemes delivered to 30-100 laboratories (depending on the program) between 1990 and presently. In 2006, 120 laboratories from 38 countries participated. Follow up education carried out as necessary.
- Consultancies:
 - WHO: Thailand, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Myanmar
 - AusAID: Eritrea, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia
 - International Consortium for Blood Safety: India, Vietnam, Indonesia
 - World Bank: Indonesia, Papua New Guinea
 - Governments: Thailand, Indonesia, Australia
 - ICBS: Vietnam, Cambodia
 - CDC, US: Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand
- Policy advice (HIV testing programmes):
Indonesia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, India, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia.

2010 Inductees:

Anne Mijch

Anne Mijch has worked in HIV from 1984 until 2007 in Victoria, Australia as a clinician and researcher and teacher. She is still currently working in the same area in similar roles.

Alex Wodak

Dr Alex Wodak, Director of the Alcohol and Drug Service, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney since 1982, has major interests in the prevention of HIV among injecting drug users prison and drug policy reform. Dr. Wodak is President of the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation and was President of the International Harm Reduction Association (1996-2004). He helped establish the first needle syringe programme and first medically supervised injecting centre in Australia (when both were pre-legal) and often works in developing countries on HIV control among IDUs. Dr. Wodak was awarded the AM in 2010. He helped establish ASHM, NUAA and NDARC.

2009 Inductees:

Margaret MacDonald

Dr Margaret MacDonald, a Senior Lecturer at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Clinical Research, died on 29 September 2003 after a very brief illness. She had made a substantial contribution to Australia's remarkable response to the threat of an HIV epidemic. Dr MacDonald was a nurse before developing her career as a public health researcher. She devised and established a series of inexpensive, timely and effective epidemiological monitoring techniques, especially for populations of injecting drug users. Her influence extended beyond Australia through this work. Dr MacDonald is best known for developing in 1995 an annual survey of demographic characteristics, drug consumption, risk behaviour, and hepatitis C and HIV serology.

She had recently contributed substantially to the official evaluation of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in Kings Cross, Sydney. Despite her considerable contribution and international reputation, Dr MacDonald remained the same unassuming and self-effacing figure. Her work was influenced by a strong concern for social justice.

Dr MacDonald had a wide range of interests and enjoyed many pursuits.

David Bradford

David Bradford is a Sexual Health Physician and was Director of the Melbourne Communicable Diseases Centre when HIV/AIDS first appeared in Australia. That Centre rapidly set up a clinic for HIV testing, counselling and outpatient care. David was asked by Ita Buttrose to chair a working group to produce Guidelines for HIV testing in Australia and from 1987 onwards was a member of several incarnations of The National Council on AIDS. From 1987 to 1993 (the worst years of HIV/AIDS) he worked in private practice in one of the 3 or 4 Melbourne clinics providing primary and palliative care for people with HIV. From 1993 until his retirement from fulltime practice in 2004 he was Director of the Sexual Health Clinic in Cairns, looking after some 200 HIV patients in Far North Queensland.

Phillip Medcalf

Phillip Medcalf Phillip Medcalf, President of NAPWA, died on 22 February 2003. In the Australia Day Awards of 2003, Phillip James Medcalf (deceased) was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community as a supporter and promoter of the interests of people living with HIV/AIDS. Phillip had been a volunteer in the sector since he retired from full-time work as the General Manager at Sydney Sexual Health Centre in 1996. From 1996, Phillip had state-based roles in PLWH/A (NSW), The AIDS Council of NSW and the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation as representative on the boards and committee membership of the NSW HIV Agencies Forum, and the NSW Rural HIV Conferences. In May 1999 Phillip joined the National Association of People living with HIV/AIDS (NAPWA) Executive Committee, nominating for Vice President after several years as a PLWH/A (NSW) representative to the national body. In 2001 Phillip became President of NAPWA, a position he held until his death. Over this period he also represented in a variety of national positions, including the Commonwealth World AIDS Day Committee, the NAPWA nominee on the Board of Governors of the AIDS Trust of Australia (ATA), and the Board of Directors of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO).

He was also working in a part-time capacity at the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) from August 2000 to March 2002. In a year when he was the Executive Assistant to the Executive Officer of ASHM, he was also the NAPWA President and was invited to be part of the opening session of the 2001 ASHM

Conference. Phillip leaves behind a legacy that was valued and appreciated by people all around Australia

Peter Meese

Dr Peter Meese, a physician in the Infectious Diseases Unit of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, died on 23 February 2000. He graduated from the University of Melbourne and began working at Middle Park Clinic in 1976.

Peter was a dedicated GP. His gifts of optimism, empathy and intelligence were available to all who consulted him. His patients had every confidence in him. Peter also worked very hard for advancement in his profession. He was affiliated with many medical organisations, but worked particularly hard in the pursuit of excellence in the field of HIV and Sexual Health and was a very active HIV/STI clinician and ASHM Member. Peter was a Senior Fellow of the Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicians, contributing articles and being involved in the examination process of its doctors. He was one of the editors of the Management Guidelines for Sexually Transmissible Infections. Peter was a long-term committee member and past chairman of the Venereology Society of Victoria and a past president of the National Venereology Council of Australia. He taught and examined the students of the Diploma of Venereology, and was always contributing to furthering the knowledge in the field of STIs. He was also an examiner for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

Peter had worked in the Infectious Diseases Unit of the Alfred Hospital for almost a decade. He was instrumental in ASHM and the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research. He was always involved in clinical trials - for the benefit of his patients. He made an invaluable contribution to this field of medicine.

Ian Thompson

Dr Ian Lyall Thompson FRCP FRACP, consultant physician and haematologist, died in Sydney in August 1989 at the age of 59. He was educated at Scots College, Sydney and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sydney. He became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1959 and subsequently a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. In Sydney, his main appointments were consultant physician at Sydney Hospital, Crown Street Women's Hospital, St Luke's Hospital and later at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst, where he was consultant physician to the Haematology and HIV Medicine Units. Dr Thompson was known by all for his enormous breadth and depth of knowledge, his rapier-sharp wit and his ever-present sense of humour. A compassionate and disciplined man, he was dedicated to the care of his patients and as a diagnostician he was unsurpassed. He was a much-loved teacher of medical students and of physician trainees. He devoted an enormous amount of time to an unending support for his younger colleagues, encouraging them in the pursuit of their careers in medicine. But it is not only within medicine that he will be remembered - his great knowledge covered the fields of art, literature, music and travel. He was a consummate conversationalist and entertainer. His enthusiasm for life itself made him a truly remarkable man, for which he will always be remembered.

Ron Lucas

Ron Lucas ("Rowdy" to his mates) was one of the most outstanding infectious diseases physicians of his generation. He was a physician's physician, and the person you would want caring for you if you were ill.

Born in Ballarat on 13 August 1932, he was educated at Ballarat Grammar School, where he excelled at football and cricket and was school captain. He studied medicine at the University of Melbourne, graduating in 1956.

After a brief period at Horsham Base Hospital, Ron joined the staff at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, where he remained until his retirement in the early 1990s.

Ron's career spanned a most exciting and eventful era, as the field of infectious diseases was transformed from a largely descriptive branch of medicine, with limited diagnostic tools and therapeutic options, to the science-based discipline of today. Empowered by Medical Superintendent John Forbes's view that clinical practice would only progress if it was based on strong relevant research, Ron formed a partnership with the laboratory team and helped not only to improve clinical practice but to define many important features of the epidemiology, natural history and control of some of the most common viral diseases.

He pioneered techniques for managing patients with fulminant hepatitis, established the first dialysis unit for chronic carriers of hepatitis B virus, established dedicated clinics for the care of patients infected with HIV and, in his role as founding Secretary/Treasurer of the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases, guided the growth of that organisation.