

Fiona Wood citation

Friday 5th of May 2017

2:00pm – Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences

Chancellor, I present to you Fiona Melanie Wood.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) is being awarded to Professor Woods in recognition of his outstanding contribution to burns research, surgery and community service.

Professor Fiona Wood AM is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon of international standing, specialising in acute burn care and scar reconstruction. She has provided exceptional and distinguished care to many patients with burns injuries.

Born and raised in England, Professor Wood began her medical training at St Thomas' Hospital Medical School in England, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Anatomy, and a Bachelor of Medicine in 1981. She went on to undertake postgraduate training in surgery, obtaining a Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. It was at this stage that she developed a particular interest in plastic surgery and recognised that she wanted a career that combined research, innovation and surgery.

It was through studying congenital diseases such as cleft palates that she became motivated to gain an understanding of various forms of scarring. Her lifelong dedication to burns medicine was stimulated by accepting a position at Queen Victoria Hospital in Sussex, which had a Burns Unit.

In 1987, Professor Wood moved to Australia and completed her surgical training. Although she continued to study both cleft palates and burns, in the early 1990s she decided to focus on burns medicine. She was appointed Director of the Burns Service of Western Australia in 1991, a position she continues in today. She also holds the positions of Consultant Plastic Surgeon at the Fiona Stanley Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, and the Winthrop Professor (Burns Injury Research Unit) at the School of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Western Australia.

Professor Wood has participated in crisis response to various world disasters; she coordinated a major operation of surgeons and medical staff to save and improve the lives of Bali bombing victims, and provided emergency medical care for burns survivors of the crash landing of Garuda Flight 200.

As a clinical researcher, Professor Wood has contributed immensely to understanding skin tissue regeneration. Along with Professor Marie Stoner she developed a skin culture facility leading to the development of a treatment referred to as 'spray on skin'. This technology has been commercialised and used in the treatment of over 1,000 patients worldwide, earning Wood and Stoner the Clunies Ross Award for their contribution to Medical Science in Australia.

Her achievements and service have also been recognised with membership to the Order of Australia, the Australian Medical Association's Contribution to Medicine Award, and she was named Australian of the Year in 2005.

Professor Wood has tirelessly dedicated herself to improving the lives of burns survivors, as a surgeon and a researcher, providing an exemplary service to the community.

It is therefore with great pleasure I present to you, Chancellor, Professor Fiona Melanie Wood, Bachelor of Science (Hons), MBBS, Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, Fellow of the

Royal Australian College of Surgeons and Honorary Doctor of Medicine (Leeds), Member of the Order of Australia, for conferral of an Honorary degree - Doctor of the University.