

**Citation: Dr Roy Scragg OBE
Wednesday 17 September 2014, 11.00am, Bonython Hall**

Deputy Chancellor, I am pleased to present to you Roy Scragg.

Dr Scragg completed his MBBS at University of Adelaide. He was Public Officer in the Public Health Department in PNG and Director of Public Health from 1957 to 1970. He served in the PNG Parliament as a member of the Legislative Council and Executive Council PNG and as Member, House of Assembly and Constitutional Committee from 1957 to 1968 inclusively.

Roy Scragg was Foundation Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine at the Papua New Guinea University. He spent 27 years in PNG with 13 years directing the expansion of medical care, research, prevention and education. He actively participated in the creation of a health science educational complex and the establishment of the Medical School within the University of PNG.

He fostered a culture of epidemiological inquiry within the PNG Department of Public Health that facilitated medical research into the health problems of the country. The studies of neonatal cretinism, kuru, enteritis necroticans, neonatal tetanus and the community infertility and gonorrhoea link were seminal studies with worldwide relevance. This epidemiological culture fostered the establishment of the PNG Institute of Human Biology and the eventual establishment of the PNG Institute of Medical Research.

Dr Scragg's detailed demographic and gynaecological study removed culture contact as the prime cause of the infertility that had appeared in the peoples of the southern hemisphere after European contact and settlement.

His master's thesis provided a sixty year history of fertility and mortality and measurement of the impact of health services on a defined section of the PNG population. Significantly the expectation of life at birth increased from 32 years to 52 years over three decades. These findings were confirmed by the national census through to 1980.

Dr Scragg was integral to the establishment of a long term relationship with the University of Adelaide and Papua and New Guinea starting with Sir Raphael Cilento in 1918. His seminal doctorate studies encouraged other graduates to seek their future in PNG.

He fostered the interest of Professor Norrie Robson (later Sir Hugh) in Kuru, Dr Basil Hetzel and his team in iodine deficiency, leading to the validation of the existence of preventable cretinism in the neonatal child, and thoracic surgical teams lead by Mr D'Arcy Sutherland and Mr Howard Brown. He encouraged research into medical conditions of the PNG people by the young University of Adelaide graduates who sought their future career in PNG including Dr Timothy Murrell and Dr Robert Douglas.

Dr Scragg was the founding editor of the PNG Medical Journal in 1955, Foundation Professor of Social & Preventative Medicine University of Papua New Guinea from 1970-1974 and Founding Director of SA Postgraduate Medical Education Association from 1974 to 1982.

He has served on ANZAAS, the Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators, Australasian Epidemiology Association, the Public Health Association of Australia, the ANZ Society of History of Medicine and has been a member of Rotary in PNG and in Adelaide as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Dr Scragg was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire for Public Services in Papua New Guinea.

Deputy Chancellor, I present to Roy Scragg, MBBS, Master of Public Health, MD, for admission to the degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).