



The Australian Pain Society

2009
*Distinguished
Member
Awards*

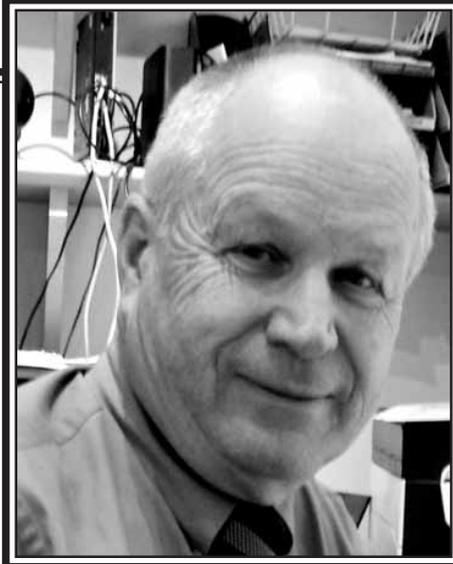
Awarded for services to the promotion,
treatment and science of pain management
and lifelong contribution to the
Australian Pain Society.

Dr David Gronow commenced an interest in pain medicine whilst an anaesthetic registrar at Sydney Hospital. The then director of Anaesthetics, Dr Fred Berry suggested that the registrar whose afternoon theatre list had been cancelled might like to be the anaesthetic representative at the hospital's pain clinic. Only a privileged few knew of its existence.

This assessment clinic based loosely on the Bonica model was under the jurisdiction of the Neurology Department - whose registrar, Dr Ray Garrick, continues his interest in small fibre neurology.

During the early eighties Sydney Hospital suffered political persecution and was downsized. This necessitated Dr Gronow reconsidering the challenge of leaving anaesthesia behind and taking on pain medicine fulltime. A private multidisciplinary pain clinic in Macquarie Street, Sydney - Sydney Pain Management Centre (SPMC), was established where Dr Gronow continues as Medical Director. One of its early team members was Dr Newman Harris who went on to complete his psychiatric training specialising in chronic pain. Also at that time, he joined the team at Westmead Hospital as a VMO to their pain clinic with Dr Peter Cox and Prof Ben Marosszky, amongst others.

SPMC commenced an outpatient group cognitive behavioural program in the mid 1980s. Dr Gronow and Robyn Quinn visited a number of pain clinic programs in the US especially that of Professor Fordyce



David W Gronow

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FFPMANZCA; FChPM, RACP

at the University of Washington Seattle, Dennis Turk's in Philadelphia & the Rosomoffs' in Florida, to discover that inpatient programs were the way to go. So an inpatient program was established by SPMC in 1989. This was with the considerable assistance of Dr Robert Oakeshot, Medical Director at Royal Rehabilitation Hospital, Ryde where a private hospital was established by SPMC to house patients in the 4 week program. One of the clinical psychologists to join

the team was Michael Nicolas who later instigated the ADAPT program at Royal North Shore Hospital. The SPMC inpatient program evolved into a residential program then back to an outpatient program.

In 1985 the SPMC also commenced the Newcastle Pain Management Centre at the request of Professor Gordon Kerridge, Professor of Orthopaedics at Royal Newcastle Hospital which continued until 1996.

From 1996 the SPMC moved progressively from Ryde and Sydney CBD to Parramatta where it continues to provide multidisciplinary pain management.

From 1989 David Gronow was Supervisor of Advanced Training with the Royal Australian College of Physicians Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, based at SPMC. Several rehabilitation medicine trainees who spent 6 months at the Centre have maintained an ongoing interest in pain medicine.

David accepted the position of Director of the Multidisciplinary Pain services at Westmead Hospital

in 1999, establishing a training program for the Faculty of Pain Medicine.

His considerable contribution to the Australian Pain Society extends from a period as Secretary / Treasurer 1985 - 1994, Vice President 1994 - 1997 and President 1997 - 2000. During this time the Society grew from home office management via self written, Dbase11 software on floppy disc, to having a full time Secretariat.

David has been Treasurer of the Australian Pain Relief Association (APRA) 1986 - 1995 and since then President. The PhD scholarship program commenced with significant contribution from Geoff Gourlay who was both treasurer of APS and an APRA director.

A member of the Court of examiners Faculty of Pain Medicine, David has also been a surveyor for the Australian Council on Health Care Standards and is Medical Secretary of the Medico-Legal Society of NSW. He has undertaken clinical trials in analgesics, written occasional journal articles and given presentations on various aspects on pain medicine.

