



The Australian Pain Society

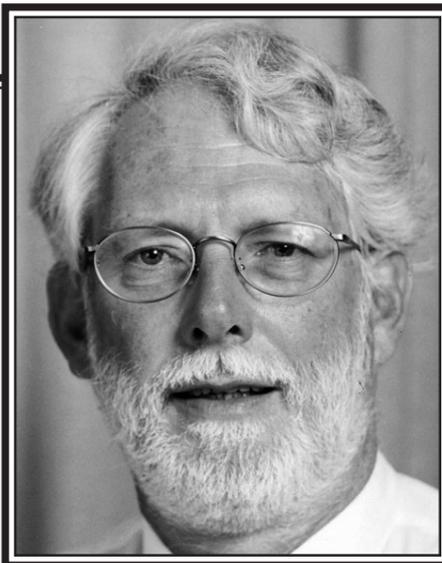
2012
*Distinguished
Member
Award*

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

Bruce graduated from the University of Queensland medical school in 1965. After 2 years as a resident medical officer in Cairns he returned to Brisbane in 1969 to commence anaesthesia training. He recalls an early exposure to the challenges of pain management, during his neurosurgical attachment helping Professor Tess Cramond with the treatment of intractable cancer pain by intravenous lignocaine infusion in the outpatient setting - perhaps his first taste of what would become a lifelong interest.

After packing the Kombi van he drove his young family to Adelaide in 1971 to successfully complete anaesthesia training. The Royal Adelaide Hospital Pain Management Unit was opened the following year under the leadership of Dr Evan Hallet and Bruce was appointed to a part-time specialist position in conjunction with other anaesthesia specialist duties. There began a career-long interest in anaesthesia for ENT surgery.

In the same year he purchased the first of his many trademark Fiat 500 Bambinos and rapidly formed a close working relationship with Prof Issy Pilowsky who was already investigating the psychiatric aspects of pain management. Their collaboration was maintained for the next 25 years until Prof Pilowsky moved to the University of Sydney.



Bruce Rounsefell

MBBS, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA, AM

The RAH clinic model was based on that of the University of Washington with strong medical interdisciplinary collaboration and the availability of inpatient beds within the psychiatric unit. With the addition of the Pain Management Unit at Flinders Medical Centre, under the leadership of Professor Michael Cousins, Adelaide by the mid 1970s had multidisciplinary pain

services at its three major teaching hospitals and was shifting from being the city of churches to the city of pain (management). Rumour has it that referring doctors would consider whether the patient needed an interventional approach (FMC) or a talking approach (RAH) prior to sending off requests for assessment.

Bruce took on the acting directorship of RAH PMU in 1984 due to the ill-health of Evan Hallet and became formally instated as director in 1985, a role he continued until early 2011. During this time the unit expanded enormously, securing its own procedural and consultative suite in 1988 and first trainee position in 1989. Reflecting Bruce's wide-ranging interests and open-minded approach, the unit provided services covering the full range of pain therapies and interventions from hypnotherapy and acupuncture at times through to cognitive behavioural therapy and on to implant-based interventions for cancer pain, spasticity and chronic

non-cancer pain. The inevitable space issues associated with an expanding workforce and workload were successfully resolved after much lobbying. In 2004, a purpose-built unit with procedural, group, consultation and meeting rooms was incorporated into the RAH hospital redevelopment. It continues to be envied by many interstate peers.

A particular area of interest throughout Bruce's career has been in cancer pain management. He was closely involved with the initial application of home-based neuro-axial opioid therapy via epidural ports in the mid 1980s and the evolution to intrathecal LA/opioid mixtures delivered by ambulatory pump/port systems to patients in both metropolitan and country settings. He was a strong advocate for the establishment of a dedicated palliative service at RAH and then developed a close working relationship with the initial head of service Professor Michael Ashby. The ongoing strong links between local palliative care services and RAH PMU have been maintained to this day.

Bruce was also a strong advocate for the establishment of a dedicated Acute Pain Service at RAH - this service has blossomed to become a world-leader in clinical, research and educational aspects of acute pain under the dynamic leadership of Associate Professor Pam Macintyre.

His enjoyment of travelling has also been reflected by professional activities outside the tertiary teaching hospital environment. He pioneered pain medicine specialist visits to Alice Springs and Darwin over 25 years ago and continues to contribute there as part of the RAH PMU outreach component of the Territory Integrated Pain Service.

Closer to home, he has forged strong links with general practitioners in metropolitan Adelaide and remains involved in efforts to develop pain services in the primary care sector.

Bruce has had a strong involvement with the Australian Pain Society since attending its inaugural meeting on the Gold Coast in 1979. He was state director from 1985 until 2001, then Honorary Secretary until 2006, and continues to be a source of "corporate memory" for the current board. He was on the IASP Subcommittee on Medical School Curricula 1985-87 and on the Local Organising Committee for the IASP World Congress in Adelaide in 1990. He was part of the ANZCA Working Party on Diploma in Pain Medicine, has been an examiner for the Faculty of Pain Medicine since 2000 and a training unit accreditor since 2004.

Bruce continues to work part-time at RAH PMU and more recently at the Spinal Injury Service at Hampstead Rehabilitation Hospital. His wide ranging extracurricular and travel interests amply fill the remainder of his time, usually with several projects on the go concurrently. His fleet of vintage American cars is matched by an equally large battalion of Fiat 500s apparently limited only the harsh realities of parking space availability.

In 2003 Bruce was awarded an Order of Australia Membership for his contribution to pain medicine. The OAM citation however does not expand upon his strong legacy of mentorship and encouragement of his colleagues. Throughout his long career he has fostered the progress of many clinicians, both medical and non-medical and from all parts of the world. He is a truly worthy recipient of the 2012 Australian Pain Society Distinguished Member Award.