

OBITUARY

**EMERITUS PROFESSOR JAMES MAY, AC, MD, MS, FRACS, FACS
VASCULAR SURGEON
1934 - 2021**



Professor James May dedicated outstanding and prolonged service to the University of Sydney as the Bosch Professor of Surgery, University of Sydney (1979-2014). Professor May was an outstanding academic surgeon, teacher, and trainer of generations of surgeons in this country.

Professor May provided a remarkable service to both the University of Sydney and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) over many years. As well as being the Bosch Professor of Surgery, Professor May was Head of the Division of Surgery at the RPAH from 1979 to 1995, and Head of the Department of General Surgery at that hospital from 1979 to 1988. Professor May was seen by his surgical colleagues as the 'father of vascular surgery' in Australia, and he held an outstanding international profile in this discipline.

Professor May was responsible for the introduction of endovascular surgery in Australia and has served on many national and international endovascular societies. This included Member of the Board of Directors of both the International Society for Endovascular Surgery, and the International Society of Endovascular Specialists. Indeed, he was elected President of the latter Society from 2005 to 2007. Professor May also served as the President of the Australian and New Zealand chapter of the International Society for cardiovascular surgery, and from 2001-2004 he was President of the International Society for cardiovascular surgery.

Professor May's academic contribution to endovascular surgery was outstanding. He served on the Editorial Board of most of the major national and international journals of surgery. These include the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery, Journal of Endovascular Surgery, Journal of Endovascular therapy, Journal of Vascular Surgery, Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery, and the Annals of Vascular Diseases. He also served as Guest Editor, Asian Journal of surgery. In 2007, Professor May was recognised as the "distinguished reviewer" for the Journal of vascular surgery. Professor May received numerous awards and medals for his outstanding service: these include the Henry Simpson Medal and prize in surgery from the Australian Medical Association, Kellogg Fellowship (Kellogg foundation USA), the Sims Commonwealth travelling professor (1987), Royal College of Surgeons, England, and in 2009, the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement award from the vascular surgical society, USA.

In 2001 Professor May was made a Companion in the Order of Australia (AC), in the Queen's Birthday Honours. As well as his remarkable clinical contribution and service to his discipline, Professor May made a huge contribution to academic surgery. Professor May was invited to deliver numerous invited lectures at virtually all prestigious national and international societies in his discipline. Moreover, he has written over 400 publications of surgical literature, mostly on vascular and endovascular surgery.

Professor May made a very substantial contribution to the teaching of medical students in the Faculty of Medicine over his whole career. In his retirement he taught in problem-based tutorials for first- and second-year medical students, together with weekly communication skills tutorials for students at the RPAH. Professor May's major contribution to teaching also included the establishment of the Masters of Surgery-by-coursework program, which commenced in 2004 and was co-developed by Professor John Harris and which has become a major component of preparation for surgical practice.

Professor May rose to be regarded among the top two or three academic surgeons in Australasia and the father of vascular surgery in this country. He has left a legacy of hundreds of surgeons he directly trained and thousands of doctors he influenced and taught through his role at the University of Sydney

This obituary was provided by Dr Raffi Qasabian FRACS