

Associate Professor John Mahony AM
Member, joined 1 June 1971
ANZSN Councillor 1986-90; Executive Officer 1988-1990

I was then appointed as Renal Physician at Sydney Hospital where John Stewart was Head of the Renal Unit. When he left in 1979, I became Head of that Unit and Director of the Sydney Dialysis Centre (SDC), established by John Stewart in 1967. When the major clinical Units at Sydney Hospital were moved / disbanded in 1982-3, I was responsible for our shift to Royal North Shore Hospital providing regular dialysis and transplant services there for the first time. I remained there till I retired in 2006.

Dialysis achievements

- First haemodialysis at St. Vincent's Hospital Sydney in 1967 establishing the Haemodialysis Unit there
- Established first satellite haemodialysis unit at Blacktown Hospital 1977; followed by others at Tamworth, Lismore and Wagga Wagga over next 2 years, all led by nursing graduates from the Sydney Hospital course in Renal Nursing of which I was the Co-ordinator
- Director, Sydney Dialysis Centre 1979-2005 with results equivalent to cadaveric renal grafts over that time
- Initiated Renal Resource Centre for Australia at SDC in 1981
- Established Haemodialysis Unit and renal consultations at Gosford Hospital in 1984
- Tiwi Islands consultancy in 1995 leading to satellite dialysis unit on Bathurst Island in 1996

Renal Transplant

- Involved in organizing the first cadaveric renal donor at SVH (earning a reprimand from Mother Rectress, inter al.)
- With John Stewart, and after he left, supervised 40 transplants per year at Sydney Hospital 1970-83
- Supervised 20-25 grafts annually at RNSH 1983-2005; overall involved with approx. 1,000 transplant recipients with among the best results in Australia over that time. Certainly, Sydney Hospital had the largest cohort of long-term cadaveric graft survivors in the world
- Specific interests included documenting complications of renal transplantation and their prevention, and trials of new immunosuppressive agents

General

- Established first renal consultative service to Newcastle in 1971
- In 1977, described the association between analgesics, renal papillary necrosis and renal pelvic carcinoma with 12 cases from Sydney Hospital, leading finally to the withdrawal of phenacetin from compound analgesics and the disappearance of analgesic nephropathy
- Councillor ANZSN 1986-90, and Executive Officer 1988-1990, which included the 1988 Golden Jubilee Meeting of the RACP
- Councillor TSANZ 1993-1997
- 2001-2004 Chairman, Medical Board of Royal North Shore Hospital.

- In 2003 awarded AM for services to renal medicine as physician, educator, administrator and for patient care at the Sydney Dialysis Centre
- 140 publications related to nephrology
- Trained >35 vocational registrars in Nephrology, many leaders in this Specialty

Addendum

During John Stewart's tenure as Executive Officer, he wished to establish the precedent for not accepting all abstracts submitted for ANZSN's Annual Meeting, partly because a local rheologist regularly submitted multiple abstracts of little relevance. John and the Committee then rejected a Sydney Hospital abstract for the 1975 Canberra meeting on which I was the lead author, an honour which can never be taken from me.