

Fiona Wood citation

Friday 5th of May 2017

2:00pm – Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences

Chancellor, I present to you Fiona Melanie Wood.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) is being awarded to Professor Woods in recognition of his outstanding contribution to burns research, surgery and community service. psv

specialising in acute burn care and scar reconstruction. She has provided exceptional and distinguished care to many patients with burns injuries. She completed her surgical training in surgery, obtaining a Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. It was at this stage that she developed a particular interest in plastic surgery and recognised that she wanted a career that combined research, innovation and surgery.

It was through studying congenital diseases such as cleft palates that she became motivated to gain an understanding of various forms of scarring. Her lifelong dedication to burns medicine was stimulated by accepting a position at Queen Victoria Hospital in Sussex, which had a Burns Unit.

In 1987, Professor Wood moved to Australia and completed her surgical training. Although she continued to study both cleft palates and burns, in the early 1990s she decided to focus on burns medicine. She was appointed Director of the Burns Service of Western Australia in 1991, a position she continues in today. She also holds the positions of Consultant Plastic Surgeon at the Fiona Stanley Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, and the Winthrop Professor (Burns Injury Research Unit) at the School of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Western Australia.

Professor Wood has participated in crisis response to various world disasters; she coordinated a major operation of surgeons and medical staff to save and improve the lives of Bali bombing victims, and provided emergency medical care for burns survivors of the crash landing of Garuda Flight 200.

As a clinical researcher, Professor Wood has contributed immensely to understanding skin tissue regeneration. Along with Professor Marie Stoner she developed a skin culture facility leading to the development of a treatment referred to as 'spray on skin'. This technology has been commercialised and used in the treatment of over 1,000 patients worldwide, earning

Royal Australian College of Surgeons and Honorary Doctor of Medicine (Leeds), Member of the Order of Australia, for conferral of an Honorary degree - Doctor of the University.