

Professor John Collins

Professor John Collins graduated with honours from the National University of Ireland and subsequently trained as a general surgeon in England, obtaining Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

He then moved to New Zealand where he was appointed as a consultant surgeon in Auckland and acquired the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

After obtaining a Smith & Nephew Commonwealth Foundation Scholarship, he returned to Leeds to undertake research on nutritional problems in seriously ill surgical patients. He obtained an MCH and shared in the Moynihan Prize for this research. An appointment to the staff of the University Department of Surgery in Auckland followed where he was responsible for establishing an academic unit in general surgery at one of the university's two teaching hospitals.

His main interests have been in surgical oncology and medical education. He played a significant leadership role in establishing breast screening in New Zealand and its subsequent monitoring. He was a member of a number of Ministry of Health Advisory Committees. These included the Ministerial Task Force responsible for the development and implementation of a Cancer Control Strategy for New Zealand in which he had particular responsibility for diagnosis and management.

At a local level, he was head of his hospital's department of general surgery and established the first multidisciplinary one-stop shop breast service in New Zealand. He was a member of the New Zealand Guidelines Group and Editor of the National Guidelines for the Management of Breast Cancer.

He has had a career-long interest in medical education and has held various leadership roles at the Auckland School of Medicine including in selection, curriculum development, teaching methods and assessment. He was responsible for the introduction of the OSCE and obtained an MD based on his research on selection and assessment.

For a number of years he was Academic Head of one of the two Clinical Schools of the University of Auckland and a member of the Education Committee of the Medical Council of New Zealand. He was also a member of the national steering committee that reviewed education and training during the first two years after graduation from medical school.

After completing a sabbatical year with Professor Ronald Harden and Professor Sir Alfred Cuschieri in Dundee, he established the Centre for Medical Education at the University of Auckland and became its foundation director.

He has held a number of leadership roles at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons including membership of the Boards of Basic and Advanced Surgical Training. He was the Senior Examiner and Chair of the College's Court of Examiners for general surgery.

Professor Collins's career as a clinical surgeon was cut short by a crush injury to his left hand. He moved to Melbourne to take up his appointment as the Foundation Dean of Education at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and academic appointments in surgery and medical education at the University of Melbourne.

During his time with the university, he was voted Teacher of the Year by medical students became a Professorial Fellow and chaired a formal review of the Faculty of Medicine's Intercalated Degree Programme.

During his five years at the College, he played a major role in the review of training and the subsequent development and implementation of a new competency-based surgical education and training programme for the nine surgical specialties. He chaired the College Council's working party, which was set up to review the risks and challenges facing the delivery of the College's educational programmes across Australia and New Zealand. The ensuing report recommended the establishment of an Academy of Surgical Educators by the College and he played a major leadership role in bringing this to fruition.

He has held a number of roles with the Australian Medical Council including Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Overseas Trained Specialists and membership of the Panel for Accreditation of Medical Schools and Specialist Colleges Review.

He was Deputy Chair of the Board of the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria for a number of years.

He has published widely on medical education and is a member of the Editorial Board of a number of journals. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Educators, an Honorary Fellow of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

He has recently been awarded a Hunterian Professorship by the Royal College of Surgeons of England and later this year will receive the Sir Louis Barnett Medal in recognition of his services to the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in education.

Professor Collins is currently Visiting Professor in the Nuffield Department of Surgery at the University of Oxford and Visiting Research Fellow at Green Templeton College.