



HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

Emeritus Professor John Pearn

Professor John Pearn is a renowned Brisbane paediatrician, Former Honorary Consultant at the Royal Women's Hospital, former staff member at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and Senior Clinician at the Royal Children's Hospital for 46 years.

For many years he served as Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Queensland and at the Royal Brisbane Women and Children's Hospital.

In 1975 he established the Medical Genetics Clinics at the Royal Women's and the Royal Children's Hospitals

His extensive research publications the international literature have contributed to child safety and welfare, clinical genetics, neuromuscular disease and medical ethics.

Professor Pearn has received numerous awards including the Order of Australia for service to medicine, particularly in the areas of paediatrics and medical ethics, to medical history, and to the community through injury prevention, safety promotion and first aid programs.

Graduating in 1962 from The University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Science and in 1964 with First Class Honours in Medicine and Surgery. In 1969 he was awarded the Doctorate of Medicine for discoveries in experimental pathology.

In 1971 he was awarded the foundation Florey Fellowship of the Royal Society of London, and for the ensuing three years continued his research studies of human clinical genetics and neuromuscular diseases. In 2010 he was awarded his Master of Philosophy for his research on the history of medicine at the Herston Healthcare Campus.

During his career John Pearn also served as a doctor-soldier in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps and saw operational service in Papua New Guinea (1966), in Vietnam where he was the Senior Specialist Physician and Intensivist to the Australian and New Zealand Force, and in Rwanda (1994-1995). In 1998 he was promoted to the rank of Major General and was appointed Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force.

As an active member of the community, in both 2017 and 2018 he won the Masters' Gold Medal in the Line-Throw Event at the National Indoor Pool Lifesaving Championships.



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