



HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

Dr Ifor Thomas

Dr Ifor Thomas was the Royal Women's Hospital Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1977 and Medical Superintendent in 1990.

Graduated from the University of Queensland in Medicine and Surgery in 1962 he was bonded as a State Fellowship holder for 7 years.

In 1963 Ifor started as an intern at the Brisbane General Hospital but in January 1964 he was posted to a small town on the Dawson river as part-time Medical Superintendent of the Theodore District Hospital (14 beds) with the right of private practice.

In 1969 he became a surgical registrar at the Ipswich General Hospital, followed by 2 years as registrar in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Mater Mothers' Hospital, then an arranged transfer to a training job at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth.

He was awarded membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (MRCOG), London, by examination in April 1972 (subsequently elevated to Fellowship status FRCOG and FRANZCOG).

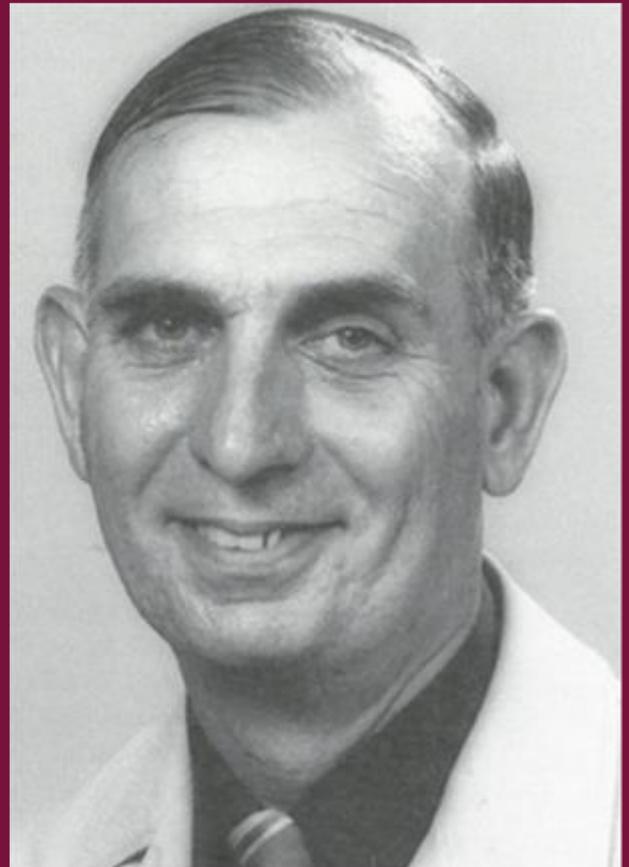
Having been accepted by the Sudan United Mission for service in Nigeria as an obstetrician and gynaecologist, he left Portsmouth in April 1974 and arrived about 36 hours later at the Vom Christian Hospital (300 beds) in the northern part of the country. Within 2-3 hours of arrival he was in Labour Ward helping with operative deliveries.

Major obstetric problems were frequent, the cumulative maternal mortality rate high, and the numerous child deaths from preventable diseases confronting. Within months he organised a team of hospital staff volunteers to visit surrounding villages one Saturday afternoon per month with a programme of health education, immunisation and child health monitoring. Up to 1200 adults and children attended some sessions. He was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Hospital towards the end of that year.

Due to internal politics with Nigeria, Ifor was removed as Medical Superintendent in August 1976 but stayed on to assist in transition till the end of that year. In February 1977 he took up the position of Director of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Royal Women's Hospital Brisbane, the first to be appointed to this position on a full-time basis. This brought the privilege of working under the iconic Dr John Campbell, Medical Superintendent since 1975 till John's retirement in 1990.

In 1983 he sat the exams for Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators (FRACMA) followed by those for Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H). In 1990 he was appointed Medical Superintendent of RWH, his request he be allowed to continue to do clinical work being accepted. He provided holiday relief for the Flying Obstetrician and Gynaecologist based at Roma on 2 or more occasions.

In the mid90s he helped the RWH to start up a Sexual Assault Service as required by Queensland Health. He retired from full-time practice in December 1999 but for several years was on the call-in roster for the Sexual Assault Service.



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