



HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

Emeritus Professor Dr Mary Mahoney AO



Dr Mary Mahoney has been part of the Royal Brisbane Hospital since 1964 and was a Visiting Medical Officer of the Royal Brisbane Hospital from 1976 to 2013.

She has an outstanding reputation for her work within Family Medicine and Medical Education.

Mary commenced as a Junior RMO at Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1964, was Senior RMO in 1965, and Paediatric Registrar in 1966. She then worked in different fields, such as the Department of Child Health within the University of Queensland and the Queensland State Department of Maternal and Child Welfare.

However, she returned to the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1970 as a part time Medical Officer and has stayed "Loyal to the Royal" for many years.

Mary's work as a medical practitioner and teacher has influenced hundreds of students and medical graduates in the art of General Practice and she also held the role of State Director of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Training Program for 25 years. She was a member of the University of Queensland Senate from 1990 to 2013, including two terms as Deputy Chancellor.

Throughout her career Dr Mahoney has been widely recognised for her contributions to medicine, notably in 2006 when she was made Officer of the Order of Australia, and in 1985 when she was made a Fellow of the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

Mary's family also has a very strong connection to the Royal. Her grandfather, Dr Eugen Hirschfeld, arrived in Brisbane in 1890 and was registered for practice later that year. Deeply involved in the medical and scientific world of Brisbane, he became honorary bacteriologist to the Brisbane Hospital and specialised in tuberculosis. He later became an honorary physician. Dr Eugen Hirschfeld lived from 1866 to 1946.

His son, Dr (Franz) Konrad Saddler Hirschfeld, and Mary's father, was one of Brisbane's most distinguished surgeons. In 1938 he was appointed Junior Surgeon to the Brisbane Hospital with a special interest in thoracic surgery. He subsequently became 'the Father of Thoracic Surgery' in Queensland.

The Marks-Hirschfeld Museum of Medical History is a museum dedicated to surgical instruments and memorabilia which was named in 1980 to honour Dr Konrad Hirschfeld for his pioneering in chest surgery and as a past curator of the Museum. Located within the Mayne Medical Building, 288 Herston Road, Herston it is free and open to the public – well worth a visit.



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