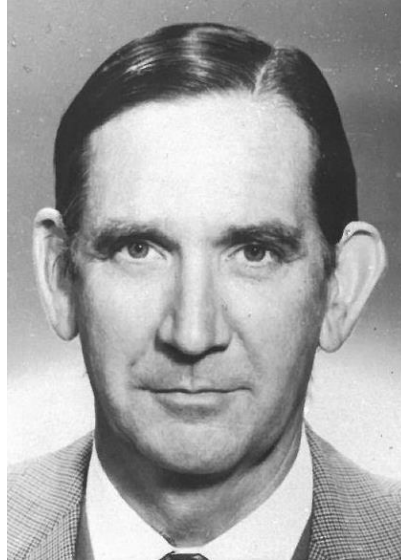


George Gunter

1922 - 1994



George Gunter was born in Victoria and educated at Camberwell East Elementary School, University High School and Taylors Education College.

After leaving school, George went to work as a laboratory assistant at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute whose chief was Sir Charles Kellaway. Sir Charles persuaded him to do the medical course which he started during the war and participated in the accelerated course, graduating in February 1945 with the Ryan Prize in Surgery and the Exhibition in O&G. Then followed two years at the Royal Melbourne Hospital as Intern and Registrar.

In 1947 George became Associate to the legendary J Orme Smith. At that time an Associate position was the only way to prepare for the Fellowship of the College and it was necessary to have another position to earn a living. In 1948-49 George was fortunate in being invited by B.K.Rank and A.R.Wakefield to be their Assistant in their private practice, an association which was to continue later in formal partnership.

In 1950 George obtained the degree of M.S. from Melbourne University and the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Later that year he travelled to England and obtained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, and in 1951 he was appointed as Senior Registrar to the Plastic Unit of the Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, the first of many Australians to train in that unit.

On returning to Melbourne in 1952 he was appointed Head of the Plastic Surgery Unit of the Prince Henry's Hospital and Assistant Plastic Surgeon to the Royal Children's Hospital. In 1968 he followed Alan Wakefield as Head of the Plastic Unit at the Royal Children's, relinquishing that position in 1980, but remaining as "Plastic Surgeon" until 1987, when he was appointed Consultant Plastic Surgeon. He was also appointed Administrator of the Victorian Plastic Surgery Unit from 1985 to 1987.

George served as Chairman of the Section of Plastic Surgery of the RACS in 1973 and President of The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons from 1973 to 1975. He was on the Court of Examiners of the College from 1978 until the sudden onset of his final and protracted illness in 1988.

In the extended field of Plastic Surgery, he attended numerous overseas conferences, and counted many international surgeons as close friends. In 1967 he participated in one of the surgical teams to Vietnam, and also worked in Indonesia on two occasions in 1973 and 1974. George was a devoted father of two daughters and three sons and enjoyed the role of grandfather. He had a long term interest in horses, being Chairman of the German Warmblood Horse Association, and in later years took much pleasure in his farm near Gisborne, where he raised fine cattle.

George was dedicated to our speciality, with a particular interest and expertise in Paediatric Plastic Surgery, and contributed greatly to the management of cleft lip and palate deformities in Victoria.

George Gunter was a talented Plastic Surgeon, a great doctor and a loyal friend - he truly was a gentle man.