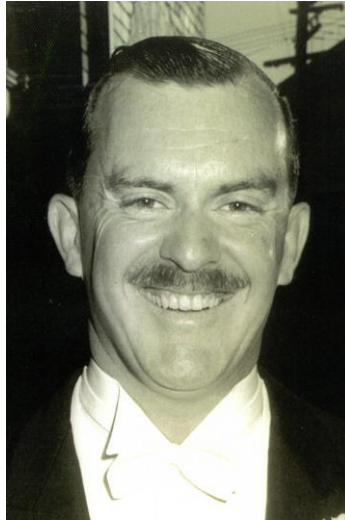


Anthony Pelly

1930 - 1982



Anthony D'Arcy Pelly was born in Waverley, NSW on 17 June 1930, the fourth and youngest child of Joseph and Clare Pelly. He was educated at St. Aloysius' and St Ignatius' Colleges and passed his Leaving Certificate in 1946. Tony entered the Faculty of Medicine at Sydney University, and at the completion of his third year, took a break of a year to study for a B.Sc. (Med). He graduated in 1953, coming second in his graduating class, gaining prizes for Psychiatry and Clinical Surgery. Even at this early stage, Tony had decided that his interest was in Plastic Surgery.

He passed the College Fellowship in 1957 and worked as senior registrar in the plastic surgery, burns and oral surgery centre at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, London. He became honorary plastic surgeon to the Balmain and District Hospital in 1961 and to the Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospitals in Sydney in 1962. He was a member of the AMA. He died on 30 August 1982.

During his residency in the Professorial Unit at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Tony was encouraged in his interest in Plastic Surgery by David Officer-Brown. Following his second year residency, Tony passed the Primary FRCS in London. In the UK, he worked for Sir Harold Gillies and was the last of the great surgeon's trainees. He also trained at Newcastle-on Tyne and spent most of his time later at the Roehampton Plastic Surgery Centre. In the UK he passed the FRCS in General Surgery and later in 1961 following his return to Sydney, passed the FRACS in Plastic Surgery.

Whilst Senior Registrar in Plastic Surgery at the Roehampton Plastic Surgery Centre, he and Patrick Clarkson jointly wrote "The General and Plastic Surgery of the Hand" which was published in 1962. In the foreword of this book, Hedley Atkins, Professor of Surgery at Guys Hospital, London University wrote,

"It is often difficult to convince a medical student that a fracture of a phalanx in the index finger may be a more serious injury than a fractured femur; that the value of life -a man's earning capacity and his happiness -may be more seriously impaired by a disability to a digit than by an amputation through the leg"

This was the concept and the driving force behind Tony's Plastic Surgery -quality of life for the people who require this specialised care.

In 1962, he was appointed Hon Plastic Surgeon at The Prince Henry and The Prince of Wales Hospitals. He became very interested in the treatment of burns and was a prime instigator in the establishment of the Burns Unit at that centre. He was also fascinated by microsurgery and fostered this discipline at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Cleft lip and palate surgery was another great interest and he started a unit at St. Margaret's Hospital for the treatment of children with this condition. A born teacher, he put great effort into the training of young surgeons.

In 1982, the year of his premature death, he had attended a course at Canniesburn Hospital, Glasgow in Cranio-facial Surgery -a further interest of his ever-inquiring mind.

It is indeed sad that his career ended so soon.