

Dr Peter Mervyn Elliot AM

The degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa) was conferred upon Dr Peter Mervyn Elliott AM at the Medicine ceremony held at 9.30am on 11 April 2003.

Citation

Chancellor, I have the honour to present Peter Mervyn Elliott, AM, for the conferring of the Degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa).

Peter Elliott graduated from this University in 1953 with the MB BS Honours Degree. He was a resident medical officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and trained in obstetrics and gynaecology at King George V Hospital to become a member of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1959. He undertook further training at University College Hospital, London, and at the Postgraduate Medical School and returned to Sydney in 1961. He was gynaecologist and obstetrician at King George V Hospital from 1961 to 1979. He was a lecturer in Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Sydney from 1964-1992 and was Head of the Department of Gynaecological Oncology at King George V Hospital at the time of his retirement from the Hospital in 1992.

During his long clinical association with the University of Sydney and King George V Hospital, he brought great distinction to the institutions in respect of the clinical care of women with gynaecology cancers. He was a pioneer in the development and promotion of clinical trials in gynaecological cancer, and with his links in Asia he was able to create training and clinical trials opportunities for many gynaecologists and gynaecological oncologists from the region. He was active in the Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology both as a member and Chairman of the Scientific Committee and in the Executive. He was President from 1981-1983. He was also active in the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology including being a member of the Organising Committee for the 5th World Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology which was held in Sydney. Peter Elliott was a major contributor in the Royal Australasian College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology serving in many capacities from 1976 culminating in him being President from 1983 to 1986.

In spite of his major clinical responsibilities Peter Elliott also contributed extensively to the medical literature in the area of obstetrics and gynaecology and particularly in the area of gynaecological cancer care.

Peter Elliott was the son of a country GP. He married Jane, a graduate in medicine at the University of Sydney and Elizabeth Elliott (Dossetor) one of their daughters, is an Associate Professor in Paediatrics at the Westmead Childrens Hospital.

Peter was a student at St Andrew's College and was a Councillor there from 1973-1985. He has a long held interest in Australian art, and was a Foundation Member of both the Australian National Gallery and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. He has donated art and funds widely including to the Macleay Museum and the Nicholson Museum of the University of Sydney.

Chancellor, I have great pleasure in presenting to you for admission to the Degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa), clinician, scholar, educator and patron of the arts, Dr Peter Mervyn Elliott and I invite you to confer the degree upon him.