

## IN MEMORIUM | Dr David Hunt, MBBS, FRACP, FCSANZ, DDU, FACC



**Dr David Hunt**  
discussing his career and retirement plans  
RACP Interview (2017)



**Catheter Laboratory, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, 1982.**  
Photograph taken by Dr David Hunt

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Dr David Hunt, MBBS, FRACP, FCSANZ, DDU, FACC, who died at his home in Melbourne on Thursday 11 January 2024<sup>1</sup>. On behalf of the Cardiac Society Board and members, we would like to extend our sincere sympathies to his family and CSANZ colleagues.

Dr Hunt became a member of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand in 1970. During his early years in cardiology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital he was part of the electrophysiology team, under the leadership of Dr Jitendra Vohra, and the first to perform the first His Bundle electrogram in Australia<sup>2</sup>. That same year Dr Hunt was appointed a full-time Assistant Director of the Cardiac Laboratory in 1971 under the directorship of Dr Graeme Sloman AO ED and then worked with him to build a world-renowned cardiology department ultimately being appointed Director of Cardiology in 1980. During those early years, training of cardiology registrars and Fellows, both from Australia and overseas and coronary care nurses had been an important commitment undertaken by the Hospital and Dr Sloman's team, who extended these training courses to training mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) officers<sup>3</sup>. Dr Hunt served for many years on the panel examination of MICA trainees and has been remembered fondly in the *MICA The First 50 years*, published in 2021 by Ambulance Victoria.

Dr Hunt was Director of Cardiology at Royal Melbourne Hospital from 1980 – 1994<sup>1</sup> and was elected CSANZ President from 1992-1994. During his Life Membership of the CSANZ, he gave such a valuable contribution of time and expertise to many CSANZ Committees and colleagues. His contribution as an active member of numerous committees included: Pharmacology and Devices Committee (1992-1995), Professional and Ethical Standards Committee (1992-1995), Scientific Committee (1992-1995), Continuing Education and Recertification Committee (1992-1995), the RACP Specialties Board (1992-1994) and a long-standing active member of the Clinical Trials Working Party (1996-2008).

After stepping down from the CSANZ Presidency, he became a CSANZ Fellow and was elected Chair of the Advanced Training Committee between 1996 and 1998. He also served as the CSANZ Representative on the Australian Medical Research Council (2001), the National Heart Foundation of Australia summary coronary heart disease secondary

prevention guide (2002) and the Department of Health's National Heart Stroke & Vascular Health Strategies Group (2003) and in 2013 was a member of the Australian and New Zealand International Chapter of the American College of Cardiology.

Dr Hunt has authored 122 research works with 3057 citations<sup>4</sup>. He published a book in 2009 giving an anecdotal history of cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery at Royal Melbourne Hospital, entitled *The evolution of cardiology and cardiac surgery at the Royal Melbourne Hospital*, with contributing authors: Sloman G., Tatoulis, J.<sup>5</sup>

Dr Hunt has made an enormous contribution to the Australasian cardiovascular community, and he will be remembered as a great teacher and mentor to so many.

A Celebration of the Life of David Hunt will be announced in *The Age* shortly.<sup>1</sup>

### References:

1. [The Age Melbourne Obituary](#) 16 Jan 2024
2. *Cardiology in Australia and New Zealand*, Hickie J.B. Hickie, K.P., Section 5.4-1990 Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand - The Royal Melbourne Hospital section (Contributors: Alan Goble and David Hunt).
3. [MICA The First 50 years](#), published in 2021 by the Ambulance Victoria.
4. [Research Gate](#) <https://www.researchgate.net/scientific-contributions/D-Hunt-2089324355>
5. [National Library of Australia](#) <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/4498993>

Image courtesy: **Planning retirement from practice** – Dr David Hunt discusses his career and plans for retirement as a cardiologist, RACP YouTube channel.