

Osmond Bruce Hadden CNZM, President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists, 2002 - 2003

Osmond Bruce Hadden was born on 18 April 1942 and is one of the leading figures in ophthalmology in New Zealand and Australia. He has been active in his field for more than 40 years and he introduced vitreous surgery to New Zealand.

Bruce gained his MB ChB from the University of Otago in 1967 and worked as a house surgeon for the Auckland Hospital Board from 1968 to 1969. He qualified with a Diploma in Obstetrics (Auckland) in 1970, and worked as Registrar in Ophthalmology from 1971 to 1973. He became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) in 1973, then from 1974 to 1975 specialised in Retinal Diseases and Surgery, and Vitreous Surgery at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami, Florida, from whence he gained the Diploma of the American Board of Ophthalmology. On his return to Auckland he worked as Ophthalmic Tutor Specialist at the Auckland Hospital from 1976 to 1977 before setting up private practice and becoming a part-time visiting ophthalmic surgeon at the Auckland Hospital. He became a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists (RACO) in 1982.

Bruce has been active in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching as well as in clinical research and he contributed to the RACO as an Examiner on both the Part I and Part II Boards, becoming Chair of the Part II Board in 1997. He held Executive positions in the Ophthalmological Society of New Zealand (OSNZ), including President from 1994 to 1995. From 1994 to 1997 he initiated and drove the amalgamation of the OSNZ with the RACO. From 1996 to 1999 he led the search committee and with his wife Wendy contributed substantially to the fund-raising for the Foundation Chair in Ophthalmology at the University of Auckland which culminated in the appointment of Professor Charles McGhee as the Foundation Maurice Paykel Professor of Ophthalmology in 1999.

In 1997 he became a RACO Councillor, and was elected Vice-President Elect in 2000, and became President in 2002. During his term in office:

- Consolidation took place of organisational and structural changes after the landmark AGM in 2002 for governance changes including:
 - adoption of a Constitution to Replace the Articles of Association;
 - election of a Board of Directors;
 - formation of an audit Committee and a Human Resources Committee to support the Board of Directors;
 - abolition of the offices of Vice President elect, Immediate Past President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer;
- The vesting of fiduciary responsibility in the Board of Directors;
- Endorsement of a more democratic system for electing the Vice President and requiring the incumbent President to advise before the mid-year Council meeting whether they would seek a second term;
- The rotation system for Branches to submit a Vice-President nominee was discontinued;
- The link between the domicile of the President and the location of the Annual Scientific Congress was broken;
- Building of a world-class education system was being developed;
- The granting of interim accreditation by the Australian Medical Council;
- The first group of candidates for the five-year training program went through the College's assessment process prior to hospital selections and Matching to commence vocational training in 2004;

- Modules were developed for the basic sciences to be completed during the first two years of training;
- A curriculum was written for clinical ophthalmology and the Part II Examination was revised against the curriculum;
- The College's scientific journal, *Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology*, continued to rise up the rankings of the Institute for Scientific Information Journal Citation Report;
- A web-based editorial office to be set up by Blackwell Publishing Asia;
- An Industry Liaison Committee was established to streamline organisation of the industry display and sponsorship for the Annual Scientific Congress;
- Proceeds from the International Congress of Ophthalmology held in Sydney provided the impetus for The RANZCO Eye Foundation to raise funds for eye research, provide support for eye care initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region and in indigenous communities, and to raise community awareness of eye health and eye care matters;
- Setting up of a College Research Ethics Committee;
- A strong association with the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges was continued with the attendance of Dr Peter Henderson providing continuity of representation over a two-year period;
- The Ethics Committee was disbanded because of anti-competitive laws and issues were to be dealt with by the President and CEO, or ultimately by the College Board, while an Ethics Module was introduced into the training program;
- Formation of the Overseas Aid Special Interest Group;
- Continuation of support to Vision 2020 – The Right to Sight - Australia;
- Adoption of National Guidelines for the assessment of the degree of permanent impairment to the visual system;

Bruce delivered his Presidential address at the first Congress to be held in New Zealand since New Zealand's amalgamation into the College in 1999. He titled his address "Amalgamation, Academia, Commerce and Ethics" and referred to the Congress as the last important formality to mark the integration of ophthalmology in the two countries. He was overjoyed at the support for the Congress but he informed the audience that, despite advances achieved with the amalgamation of Australian and New Zealand ophthalmology and the rise of academic ophthalmology, the College was continually under pressure to protect the standards of surgeons and surgery.

Dr Hadden presented the College Medal for meritorious service to Dr Max Moore AM of Adelaide, and Honorary Fellowships to Dr Peter Graham AM of Perth and to optometrist Mr Gordon Sanderson MNZM, Senior Lecturer in Ophthalmology at the University of Otago, Dunedin.

He has kept close ties with the University of Auckland through benefaction and time commitments, and with his wife, supported the Foundation of the W and B Hadden Chair in Ophthalmology and Translational Vision Research in 2005, at the University of Auckland. This strengthened laboratory and clinical research activities within the department, University and hospital. Bruce was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) by the University of Auckland in 2007 for his contributions to ophthalmology: his leadership and financial contributions contributed to the Department of Ophthalmology in Auckland's growth to become one of the world's leading ophthalmic centres.

In 2012 he was honoured with a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for his many years of dedicated service to medicine.

Bruce's wife Wendy is a radiologist and they have two sons, one of whom, Peter, is an ophthalmologist specialising in vitreo-retinal surgery.