

THE M^CCOMB FOUNDATION

DEDICATED TO RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INTO BURNS, TRAUMA AND SCARLESS HEALING

Fiona Wood FRCS, FRACS, AM,
Winthrop Professor
School of Surgery, UWA



Professor Fiona Wood is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon specialising in acute burn care and scar reconstruction.

She is the Director of the Burn Service of Western Australia, Consultant at Royal Perth Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital in Perth, the Co-founder and Director of AVITA Medical (formally Clinical Cell Culture {C3}) and Co-founder and Chair of the McComb Foundation.

Through the McComb Foundation (which she co-founded with scientist Marie Stoner), Fiona aims to conduct further research into tissue repair, regeneration and reconstruction with the aim of improving patient quality of life and return to pre-injury condition.

Background

Fiona Wood was born in Pontefract, Yorkshire England in 1958. She was the third in her family with two older brothers and eventually a younger sister.

She grew up in Yorkshire (where her parents still live) and attended the local school. Eventually, when she turned 13, Fiona was able to attend a Quaker school where her mother was working and was there for 5 years.

From an early age, Fiona was great with numbers and was fascinated by maths and physics. She wanted to continue her interest at university, but her mother and brother thought that medicine might be a better fit.

Fiona is married to Tony Kierath – a West Australian surgeon and is also mother four boys and two girls.

Education and Training

Fiona attended Ackworth School – a Quaker school near the town of Pontefract where she later became Head Girl.

In 1975, Fiona left Yorkshire aged 17 to begin her studies in medicine at St Thomas' Hospital Medical School in London. In 1978, she was awarded an Anatomy Prize and a Bachelor of Science in Anatomy graduating with First Class Honours in Anthropology Neuroanatomy.

Fiona completed her medical degree in 1981 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS).

Fiona's training to become a consultant surgeon took about 10



THE M^CCOMB FOUNDATION

DEDICATED TO RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INTO BURNS, TRAUMA AND SCARLESS HEALING

years, becoming a consultant plastic surgeon in 1991. She then began focusing increasingly on burn care and reconstruction.

Immigration to Australia

Fiona moved to Australia in 1987 with her Australian-born husband. It took some time to adjust to her new environment coming from the frozen north where it's grey and miserable, to the sunny blue skies of Australia.

"I was overwhelmed by the sunniness and coming from the frozen north when it's grey one day and grey the next and dark the next day and is there a sun?", Fiona said.

"We'd arrived in the middle of the night and I remember waking my husband up the next morning at five o'clock and saying, 'hey wake up, we're going for a walk' and he said 'why?' and I said 'cos the sun is shining!'. He groaned and said, 'and it will be for the next 365 days!'

"I am proud to be an Australian and will work towards a society dependent on the integrity of each and every one of us."

Fiona's dedication to the Australian people and her love of working and living in Australia is reflected in her many medical achievements.

In addition, Fiona was the recipient of the 2003 Australian Medical Association 'Contribution to Medicine' Award and was named a National Living Treasure in 2004.

She was also named the Australian of the Year 2005.

Fiona is a permanent resident of Australia, the mother of six children, loves sport and is immensely proud to be Australian.

Hobbies and Interests

Fiona likes to stay active and maintain a level of fitness. As her running days were over because her knees wore out, and she never got into swimming, Fiona got into cycling.

Her first taste of cycling came when her oldest son suggested she join a ½ Iron Man team and complete the cycling leg. As a result, Fiona has been a novice rider for a few years now and tries to ride as many mornings as she can before work – either behind her kids or with a group.

Fiona enjoys the physical challenge of riding and one day hopes to ride across Australia.

An interest in burns, wound healing and tissue engineering has led to her accumulation of a vast range of knowledge in these areas.



THE M^CCOMB FOUNDATION

DEDICATED TO RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INTO BURNS, TRAUMA AND SCARLESS HEALING

Now, Fiona's work in her capacity of Director of the Western Australian Burn Service has set her in the direction of the development of innovative skin technology treatments for the use in burn injury, reconstruction and other trauma.

Her research through the McComb Foundation and as Director of Avita Medical is focused on scarless healing. She is involved in several collaborative research projects focusing on tissue-guided regeneration.

Fiona has been involved in a number of education and disaster response programs associated with her interest in burns and published a variety of papers over the years.

Achievements

In 2002, the world media profiled Fiona and her team's tireless work on burns victims of the Bali bombings - especially bringing positive recognition for her revolutionary spray-on skin cell technique which was used successfully, a long with the holistic multidisciplinary burn care.

Fiona was the recipient of an Order of Australia Medal for her work with Bali bombing victims.

On 16th February 2004 Fiona Wood accepted her conferment as Clinical Professor with the School of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Western Australia.

On 2nd October 2008 Fiona Wood was offered the position of Professor (Burns Injury Research Unit) at the School of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences, University of Western Australia.



Fiona was named West Australian of the Year in 2004, and was nominated as a National Living Treasure and Australian Citizen of the Year in 2004.

Fiona was again named West Australian of the Year in 2005, and also received the honour of being named *Australian of the Year for 2005*.

In 2005, Fiona (along with Marie Stoner) also won the 2005 Clunies Ross Award for their contributions to Medical Science in Australia.

In 2008, Fiona was voted Australia's Most Trusted Person in the annual Reader's Digest survey for the fourth consecutive year. She said that trust is a core value important in all situations from small to massive as it influences performance and outcomes.

"I believe we could live in a society dependant on the integrity of each individual rather than the intellect of a few- trust is central to that concept," Fiona said.

"On a personal level this acknowledgment is overwhelming and all I can do is try to do my best."

You can find more information at:

www.rph.wa.gov.au

www.mccomb.org.au

www.avitamedical.com

Contact:

Deborah Somers

Executive Officer, McComb Foundation

Email: debbies@mccomb.org.au