

PROFESSOR LAWRIE W. POWELL AC MD, BS, PhD, FRACP, FRCP

Professor Powell is a graduate of The University of Queensland Medical School. After completing his early postgraduate training at the Royal Brisbane Hospital he won a Royal Australasian College of Physicians Scholarship to study at the Royal Free Hospital and the University of London with Professor Sheila Sherlock. He returned in 1966 to take up the position of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine at The University of Queensland. Subsequent periods of study included further training at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston and Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen. . Professor Powell was awarded a personal Chair by The University of Queensland in 1975.

In collaboration with Professors June Halliday and Graham Cooksley, Professor Powell established an internationally recognised liver research group which made significant contributions to the understanding of inherited liver disease and cirrhosis especially haemochromatosis. The group was awarded an NHMRC program grant in 1982 which was renewed in each successive round until finally it was incorporated into the QIMR block grant in 1998.

In 1990 Professor Powell was appointed Director of The Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR). Over the next ten years the Institute enlarged three-fold in size and funding and was awarded an NHMRC Block Grant in 1998.

Professor Powell was instrumental in the successful development and planning of the new Comprehensive Cancer Research Centre at QIMR including the negotiations which attracted private donations and State and Federal Government support for the project. The Centre was completed and officially opened in September 2001 at a cost of \$64 million and when fully operational the QIMR will house almost 1000 scientists and support staff.

Professor Powell has received numerous national and international awards in recognition of his research contributions. These include a Gold Medal from the Canadian Liver Foundation “for outstanding life time contributions to hepatology” and the Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 1990. He was elected President of the International Association for the Study of the Liver (1986 to 1988) and elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London in 1990. In 1991 he was also awarded the Marcel Simon Prize by the Société Française de Hémochromatose in recognition of scientific achievements in the field of genetic iron overload diseases. He has also been invited to give numerous named orations including the 1998 Hans Popper Oration to the International Association for the Study of the Liver.

Professor Powell was awarded Alumnus of the Year for 1999 by The University of Queensland, the Premier’s Millennium Award for Excellence in Health for 2000, named a “Queensland Great” in the Premier’s awards 2002, and awarded a Centenary Medal by the Commonwealth of Australia, 2003.

His most recent accolade was the 2008 Distinguished Achievement Award by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, the only Australian and only the fourth person outside the USA to have received this award.

Professor Powell is Emeritus Director of Research at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, honorary Senior Principal Research Fellow of Queensland Institute of Medical Research and Professor Emeritus, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

