

John Frances McCaffrey

MB BS MS FRACS FRCS

AUSTRALIA LOST ONE of its eminent academic surgeons when John McCaffrey died of cancer on 4 November 2000. Ironically, as an oncological surgeon he had treated many grateful cancer patients during his long and distinguished career in south-east Queensland.

John was born on 31 January 1933 and educated in Brisbane at St Lawrence's College, where he was school captain, school dux and captain of athletics. He graduated from medical school at the University of Queensland in 1956 with first class honours and also received the University Medal for Outstanding Merit, the Nathaniel Robertson Medal in Medicine, and the H G Wilson Prize.

John started his medical career in 1957 at Brisbane's Mater Hospital, where he met and later married physiotherapist Denise Moroney. He completed a Master of Surgery in 1961 and became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1962. In the same year he won the prestigious Nuffield Travelling Fellowship, which he took up at the University Department of Surgery in Glasgow, where he remained for two and a half years and passed his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Returning to Brisbane in 1964, he was offered the post of Senior Lecturer in Surgery at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and was promoted to Associate Professor in Surgery in 1969 at the Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital. In 1985, he was appointed Mayne Professor of Surgery, University of Queensland at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, a position he held until his retirement in 1989.

John not only demonstrated a tremendous intellect, but also displayed great compassion for his patients and an



excellent rapport with his students. He undertook a substantial body of clinical and scientific research in the course of his career and made an enormous contribution to surgical knowledge. He published over 100 scientific publications and was the author of numerous book chapters and many films and video clips. He had a vast number of international surgical contacts and was well known professionally in the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States and Canada, as well as many countries in Asia, particularly Vietnam. He was a founding member and eventually President of the Australian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine.

He had a long association with the Queensland Cancer Fund (QCF) and was Chairman of its Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee from 1985 until the time of his death. His generosity of spirit was demonstrated by the enormous time he dedicated to the QCF with no financial reward.

John was founder of the Breast Screening Clinic at the Royal Women's Hospital, Brisbane, which opened in 1985 as the first public breast screening service in Australia. Its operating principles were incorporated into an Australia-wide pilot study, on which the BreastScreen Australia program was eventually based.

In the course of his career, John made a very substantial contribution to the development and progress of surgery and surgical oncology, both in Australia and internationally. In particular, he advanced the understanding and implementation of breast cancer screening and of the treatment of early breast cancer, and disseminated his knowledge as a dedicated teacher and researcher. He is survived by his children Anne-Marie, Elizabeth, Sean and Chris.

Ian Bennett

books received

Angels of death. Exploring the euthanasia underground. Magnusson RS (with contributions from Peter H Ballis). Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2002 (xvii + 325 pp \$29.95) ISBN 0522849709.

Clinical pediatric urology. Belman AB, King LR, Kramer SA (eds). London: Martin Dunitz, 2002 (xvi + 1374 pp \$488) ISBN 1901865630.

eTG complete. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines, 2002 (CDRom Initial sentry subscription \$220/Students \$176).

Fifty cases of peripheral vascular interventions. White CJ (ed). London: Martin Dunitz, 2002 (xiv + 219 pp \$98.45) ISBN 184184098X.

Handbook of coronary stents. Serruys PW, Rensing B (eds). London: Martin Dunitz, 2002 (xiii + 366 pp \$154.95) ISBN 1841840939.

Hepatitis C, other liver disorders and liver health. A practical guide. Farrell GC. Sydney: MacLennan and Petty, 2002 (xi + 324 pp \$71.50) ISBN 0864331576.

Integrating complementary therapies in primary care. A practical guide for health professionals. Peters D, Chaitow L, Harris G, Morrison S. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 2002 (xiv + 335 pp \$122.82) ISBN 0443063451.

International classification of functioning, disability and health. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2001 (iii + 228 pp \$14.70) ISBN 9241545445.

International classification of functioning, disability and health. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2001 (iii + 299 pp \$58.40) ISBN 9241545429.

Macroeconomics and health: investing in health for economic development. Report of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. Sachs JD. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2002 (200 pp \$29) ISBN 924154550X.

Measurement of clinical performance. Practical approaches in acute myocardial infarction. West R, Norris R (eds). London: Royal College of Physicians (UK), 2001 (viii + 128 pp \$35.20) ISBN 1860161529.

Statistical methods for anaesthesia and intensive care. Myles P, Gin T. Oxford: Butterworth Heinemann, 2000 (xv + 152 pages \$68.75) ISBN 0750640650.

La tendresse. Strauss K. Forfar, UK: Black Ace Books, 2002 (287 pp \$7.70) ISBN 1872988423.

There's a light at the end of the tunnel. Self-help and hope for sufferers of depression. Stories, solutions and strategies. Zawatzky J. Melbourne: Hybrid Publishers, 2002 (xiv + 193 pp \$24.95) ISBN 1876462167.

Travel medicine. Walker E, Boyne L, Genasi F (eds). Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 2001 (98 pages \$43.45) ISBN 0443061645.