Wallace Ironside
MB ChB, DipPsyMed, FAPsych, MD, FRANZCP, FRCPsych, FRACP

EMERITUS PROFESSOR WALLACE IRONSIDE, Foundation Professor of Psychological Medicine at Monash University, Melbourne, in 1969. There, he initiated a teaching program that had medical students considering psychosocial issues from their first day and following the psychosocial health of families over time. With clinician colleagues, he initiated a training program for psychiatrists that was based in general hospitals rather than psychiatric institutions, and had them enrol in a Master’s degree in Psychological Medicine. His research focused on emotionally deprived children.

Wallace was President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists from 1972 to 1973, and cofounder and inaugural President of the Victorian Association of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists, 1975–1976. He served on a number of hospital boards and National Health and Medical Research Council committees.

After retirement from Monash University in 1982, Wallace continued his academic and clinical activities for a further seven years, retiring from these only when his hospital, Prince Henry’s, was demolished and its functions relocated to Monash Medical Centre. There, his influence is still strongly felt: the Centre is a bastion of liaison psychiatry that continues the fight to have all patients seen as integrated human beings with biological, psychological and social needs. A new generation of students and psychiatrists receive this wisdom; this is Wallace Ironside’s memorial.

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