

## Obituary

## John Warwick Newman MBBS, FRCOG, FRACOG



John (known as Warwick) Newman was born on 2 February 1928 at Cullen Bullen near Lithgow in New South Wales, where his father was the mines manager. He attended Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore) and commenced medicine at the University of Sydney in 1948. In his second year of medicine, he developed severe type 1 diabetes and needed to take 2 years off from his course. During this time, he took up surveying.

After graduating in 1956, Warwick became a resident medical officer at Sydney Hospital and then at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst. Assisting the plastic surgeons at St Vincent's stimulated his future interest in microsurgery and reversing tubal ligations. He then worked at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Camperdown, where he learnt how to perform an emergency tracheotomy.

Warwick trained in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick. He then took up a 1-year research fellowship at the White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles, where he helped to construct a fetal heart rate monitor, which he brought back to the Royal Hospital for Women.

In 1962, he travelled to London as a ship's surgeon and delivered two babies on the way. He gained membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and developed his interest in fetal blood pH and gas analysis.

On returning to Australia, he worked at the Queen Victoria Hospital in Melbourne and then moved to Monash University, where he continued working on fetal heart rate monitoring and fetal blood analysis and specialised in colposcopy.

Warwick achieved Fellowships of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1978 and the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1980.

On retiring, Warwick and his wife Anne moved back to Sydney and lived at Avalon. During his retirement, he played golf and was well known for his psychic bids in bridge.

Warwick died on 19 August 2012 following complications from his diabetes. He is survived by Anne and their children Peter, David, Gregory and Emma.

James B Roche

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## Medical stamps: diabetes

### Sir Frederick Grant Banting, KBE, MC, FRS, FRSC



**FRED BANTING** was born into a farming family in Ontario, Canada, on 14 November 1891. After spending a year in a visual arts course at the then Victoria College in British Columbia, he went on to complete medical school at the University of Toronto. He was reportedly not outstanding as a medical student, but an unusually expansive mind led him to explore diabetes, to paint and to practise medicine in various forms. He served in World War I, in which he was wounded and decorated for his brave care of fellow wounded soldiers. After the war, he worked as a general practitioner and as a surgeon with a special interest in orthopaedics.

Banting was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology in 1923 for his discovery of insulin in 1920. Working with a medical student, Charles Best, and other colleagues from the University of Toronto, they experimentally created

conditions in the pancreas of live dogs to cause atrophy of the exocrine glands, enabling them to extract insulin from the pancreatic islets without its destruction by trypsin.

After the discovery of insulin, Banting continued research in diverse fields, including silicosis and cancer. He was also an accomplished painter, with links to the "Group of Seven" Canadian landscape artists. During World War II, his interest was drawn to the physiological problems experienced by aviators. He died on 21 February 1941, aged 49, while on a journey to England to test the Franks flying suit, after the aircraft in which he was travelling crashed.

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