



The Taylor-Hammond Research Scholarship - Development and Philosophy

In October 2000, Mr John Taylor (Urological Surgeon and Urogynaecologist) and Professor Ian Hammond (Gynaecological Oncologist), both Fellows of the College, convened the first Anatomy of Complications Workshop (ACW) in Perth. Since then, the workshop has expanded to include courses in Hong Kong and Singapore. Participants include specialists and trainees in O&G, Fellows in gynaecological oncology and Australasian urology trainees. The Taylor-Hammond Scholarship was established using funds made possible by the success of the workshop. The main aim of the ACW is to improve gynaecologists' and obstetricians' skills, performance and knowledge particularly in the prevention and management of complications of O&G surgery. The workshop is continuously evolving with regard to the procedures learned, research, peer reviewed journal publications, educational projects and the evaluation of these activities.

The workshop was established as a 'not for profit' educational activity, so that neither the conveners nor the facilitators would receive any remuneration. Any funds generated from workshop fees and sponsorship (after costs) would be used for education, workshop development, equipment and research. To date, audiovisual and computer equipment has been purchased for use at the workshop and at the School of Anatomy and Human Biology at UWA and surgical equipment has been purchased for the Centre for Advanced Surgical Training at UWA. In collaboration with Professor Paul McMenemy, John and Ian have developed a wall chart depicting pelvic anatomy from a surgeon's viewpoint based on the cadaveric prosections and dissections performed at the workshop. They anticipated that it will be of use to practicing gynaecologists.

The workshop has been generously supported by many sponsors over the years. This support, and the generosity of the facilitators, has led to the accrual of funds which are held in a specially created and designated account under the financial governance of the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF). The scholarship is drawn from these funds under the supervision of WIRF.

John and Ian believe that the success of their workshop is directly related to the enthusiasm of the participants and the generosity of their colleagues in O&G and other surgical disciplines. The local, interstate and international facilitators, who give so freely of their time, expertise and knowledge, are drawn from the disciplines of gynaecology, gynaecological oncology, urology, general surgery, neurosurgery, colorectal, vascular and plastic surgery. Safe gynaecological surgery may require the input of many diverse surgical specialties. Without this support for the goals and philosophy of the workshop it could not have achieved the success that it has.

John Taylor and Ian Hammond consider that the Taylor-Hammond Research Scholarship reflects and gives a tangible face to the significant contribution of the participants, facilitators and sponsors who have made possible the anatomy of complications workshop, which is now in its second decade of educational activity. They believe that the establishment of this scholarship allows them to recognise the efforts of all those people who have given them the opportunity to teach and learn in such a supportive and creative environment.