



The project team was led by Professor Sarath Ranganathan and Professor Glenn Bowes, with Dr Jacqueline Healy, director of museums in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, who consulted with the RCH Foundation, Royal Children's Hospital Alumni Group, League of Former Trainees, and Royal Children's Hospital Archive and Collections Department. Staff from the foundation and the Archive and Collections Department—in particular, Lucy Beattie Hughes and Emma Dacey—contributed to the selection of material.

From its origins as an outpatient clinic in a small house in the city in 1870, the hospital has evolved into one of the world's leading paediatric hospitals. It is therefore most fitting that Dame Sally Davies has written the foreword to our publication. Dame Sally was part of the international panel that reviewed the Melbourne Children's Campus, acknowledging the importance of collaborative research between the Royal Children's Hospital, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the University of Melbourne 'to drive innovations in health care and cost effectiveness to improve the health and well-being of children, and families, in Victoria, Australia and worldwide'.<sup>2</sup>

Professor Glenn Bowes' introductory essay covers the long and entwined relationship between the hospital and the university in teaching and clinical research, culminating in the Melbourne Children's Campus, and then Peter Yule summarises the hospital's early history, up to the 1940s, marking the commencement of the modern era. Professor Sarath Ranganathan puts forward the vision for the future of paediatrics, one of strengthening research and accessibility to medical services through technology. These essays set the scene for the highlights that follow, which are grouped according to six themes: emblems, founders, buildings, individuals, turning points, community, and the future.

There have been many symbols over the years that epitomise the values of RCH. The most enduring has been the coat of arms designed in the 1950s by the College of Arms in London and Peter Jones, a leading paediatric surgeon. His daughter Sarah Jones shares the intricacies of this process. The symbol of the boy and girl has been reinvigorated in the 150th anniversary year with two patients, Akeira and Kyle, depicted on the commemorative stamp. Sue Hunt tells of the role of RCH in changing these children's life opportunities. The anniversary celebrations included major art projects, with works commissioned from Indigenous artists. Elders Aunty Joy Murphy and N'Arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs underline the cultural power of the RCH150 Aboriginal Art Project.

Hospital founders William Smith, John Singleton and Frances Perry were three individuals with a shared sense of social justice. Their contributions are examined by James Angus, director of the RCH Foundation, and historian Ann Westmore. These founders established a hospital that was to be transformed by William Snowball, now considered the father of paediatrics in this country.

Like many public hospitals in Melbourne, RCH began in houses built for residential purposes. The grandest of these was its third home, the Carlton mansion of leading

Melbourne citizen and judge Sir Redmond Barry—Peter Yule relates its significance. By way of contrast, Mark Healey from architects Bates Smart describes some of the environmental, technical and patient-welfare features of RCH's current home, which opened in 2011.

Many remarkable individuals contributed to the evolution of RCH and its relationship with the University of Melbourne. Those highlighted here are exemplars, representing the achievements of countless talented and committed people in all fields who have created the extensive range of health, teaching and research services at RCH. Individuals of particular significance include pioneering women such as Dr Mary Cowan, the first woman doctor to be employed there: Dr Sarah McNab, the first female director of general medicine at RCH, writes about the challenges that Dr Cowan faced. Further employment of women was slow to achieve, but it was the foresight of William Upjohn in the 1920s that broke the glass ceiling at RCH by enabling the employment of Drs Kate Campbell and Jean Macnamara as residents. Recipient of the Upjohn Medal in 2002, Professor Richard Larkins, comments on this initiative. Professor Dinah Reddihough, director of child development and rehabilitation, pinpoints Macnamara's extraordinary achievements in developing an efficient and comprehensive system of care for children with poliomyelitis.

It was Dame Elisabeth Murdoch and Dr Vernon Collins who led the hospital into a new era on the Parkville site in the late 1950s. Penny Fowler describes her grandmother's achievements, while Dr Kevin Collins traces his father's, who was the first Stevenson Professor of child health. In the realms of clinical practice, research and teaching, there were many turning points at RCH, of which but a small selection can be examined in this publication. For example, Dr John Colebatch revolutionised the treatment of children with cancer. Professor Henry Ekert surveys Colebatch's achievements, as they laid the foundation for his own work with childhood leukaemias and other cancers, transplantation, and haemostasis. Professor James Wilkinson shares the pivotal moment of performing, with colleague Roger Mee and team, RCH's first heart transplant operation, on 14-year-old Michael Sofoulis in 1988.

RCH led the training of nurses in paediatrics, and Sue Scott, member of the League of Former Trainees and Associates and from the Nursing Research Department at RCH reveals the commitment of the early figures who introduced nurse training based on Nightingale principles. Professor Andrew Steer, paediatric infectious diseases physician at RCH, discusses the challenges of dealing with infectious diseases. Ruth Wraith, president of RCH Alumni, points out that RCH was a leader in child psychotherapy, introducing a multidisciplinary approach with the work of Dr John Williams and Ruth Drake. Allied health professions are essential to the care of many young patients, and one of the first to emerge was physiotherapy. Anne McCoy, a physiotherapist at RCH for 37 years, stresses the importance of its development under the leadership of Dr Jean Macnamara.

Over the last 150 years RCH has continued to respond to community needs, and has often been at the forefront of social issues and changing community perceptions. Professor Ian Anderson discusses Indigenous children's health, while the pivotal change achieved by the establishment of the Wadja Aboriginal support unit is explained by Shawana Andrews and Dr Jane Miller. Associate Professor Michelle Telfer outlines RCH's leadership in providing medical care for trans and gender-diverse children and adolescents. Many of these initiatives have received funding through the RCH Foundation; Sue Hunt enumerates the foundation's four funding pillars of leadership, education and training; patient- and family-centred care; equipment and technology; and ground-breaking research.

It is interesting to speculate what health care for children and adolescents might look like in another 150 years. The future will be shaped by research conducted by the Melbourne Children's Campus—Royal Children's Hospital, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and University of Melbourne—supported by new technologies. The 'transformative shock' of the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly increased the use of telehealth consultations, and Professor Harriet Hiscock's research has examined the response of patients and their families to this new type of service. But telehealth is just one of the emerging technologies that will radically change health services in coming years. The Hon. Rob Knowles, chair of RCH, speculates that the way of the future lies outside the walls of the hospital, with telehealth, digital care coordination and remote monitoring linking patients, clinicians and the wider community. Many forms of care will be available at the patient's home or in the community, as well as at the hospital.

The Royal Children's Hospital, in partnership with the University of Melbourne, will continue to serve the wellbeing of the community in innovative ways, just as it has done for the last 150 years.

#### **Professor Mark Cook**

Chair, Medical History Museum Advisory Committee

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<sup>1</sup> P Yule, *The Royal Children's Hospital: A history of faith, science and love*, Sydney: Halstead Press, 1999, p. 20.

<sup>2</sup> JS Davies, H O'Brodovich, R Smyth, J Whitsett & F Stanley, *Review of the Melbourne Children's Campus*, Melbourne: Royal Children's Hospital, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and University of Melbourne, 2017, p. 7.

Cat. 65 Dr Jean Macnamara (Melbourne, 1899–1968) (designer); manufactured in Germany, **Mannequins and papoose board**, c. 1935, cotton and other fabric, elastic, plaster and wood; mannequin 4.7 × 32.5 × 11.8 cm; papoose board 6.3 × 37.7 × 13.8 cm. MHM02116, Medical History Museum, University of Melbourne.

This articulated wooden mannequin rests in a papoose board to illustrate deformity prevention. Designed and used by Dr Jean Macnamara to demonstrate the principles of splinting paralysed limbs to avoid deformities in poliomyelitis patients.

