



The Australian Craniofacial Unit

1975 – 1996

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Abstract

This thesis sets out the principles of craniofacial surgery and how they have been utilised to form the Australian Craniofacial Society. Progress of the organisation is mapped over twenty one years. A list of selected published papers in which the author has in some way contributed to the development of teaching, research and service in craniofacial surgery. The papers are grouped so as to show the progress made in the areas of Trauma, The Craniosynostoses, Craniofacial Clefts, Frontal Ethmoidal Meningoencephalocele, Craniofacial Tumours, as well as Research and Development.

The central theme of the development of this new surgical discipline is that progress has been from the technically possible to an understanding of the pathology, pathogenesis and natural history of the disease processes dealt with by the craniofacial team. In a reciprocal fashion research inspired by clinical experience validates the choice of technical procedures and defines their rational application.

The thesis reaffirms the need for the multi-disciplinary service properly administered and politically supported, which must be closely aligned with research and development. The author's efforts have been directed towards establishing an infrastructure in which this could happen and developing tools by which it could be achieved.

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