

Ian Philip Torode

Ian Philip Torode was born on 31 October 1949 in the town of Colac, Victoria, Australia. He grew up in a family of five siblings, the son of the well-known and highly respected Dr Keith Torode, the local family doctor. He attended Geelong College and studied medicine at the University of Melbourne. He undertook residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Connecticut, Hartford, Connecticut USA, and fellowship training in paediatric orthopaedics at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada from 1980-1981. He found his clinical fellowship at The Hospital for Sick Children inspirational, coming under the influence of Robert Gillespie, Mercer Rang, Robert Salter, Colin Moseley and Norris Carroll. He was inspired to take an interest congenital limb abnormalities by the late Robert Gillespie. He was appointed as a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto from 1981-1983.

In 1983 he returned to Australia and appointments to the Royal Children's Hospital and Royal Women's Hospital soon followed. With the passage of time he consolidated his commitment as a Senior Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Royal Children's Hospital becoming Deputy Director and Head of Clinical Orthopaedics in 1998 and Director of Orthopaedics in 2013. He served the Royal Children's Hospital for 32 years and was running the department with energy and enthusiasm until the last.

Ian Torode had a broad view of the world of orthopaedics having grown up in Australia and trained in the United States and Canada. He felt a particular loyalty to the Asia Pacific region and was a Travelling Fellow of the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association and was awarded a Travelling Fellowship from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons for Project Guangzhou.



He served as an officer in numerous orthopaedic organisations and societies, including the Australian Orthopaedic Association as Director from 2006-2008, the Asia Pacific Sub-Committee of the Australian Orthopaedic Association from 1995-2001, the Australian Paediatric Orthopaedic Society as Secretary from 1994-1997 and as President from 2005-2007. He was a member of the Spine Society of Australia from 1984, and President from 1998-2000. He became a member of the Western Pacific Orthopaedic Association in 1989, this organisation now known as the Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association. He was Council member from 1992-2004, Vice-President of the Paediatric Section from 1995-2001 and President of the Paediatric Section 2001-2004.

Given his interest in limb deficiency he was a life member of the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics. Reflecting his spine interest, he was a member of the Group International Cotrel-Dubousset. In 2004 he was invited to join the International Pediatric Orthopaedic Think Tank.



Ian Torode's interests were the whole of orthopaedics, he drew no boundaries between "paediatric orthopaedics" and "adult orthopaedics". He had an instinctive feel for biology and biomechanics and an outstanding ability to think laterally and to devise and innovate new solutions for the most complex problems in trauma, spinal injury, spinal deformity, congenital and acquired deformities in the limbs, tumour reconstruction, the paediatric hip, brachial plexus surgery, surgical management of arthritis and haemophilia. He was always in the chair on the Wednesday morning department meeting. We his colleagues leant heavily on him for advice in the management of unusual conditions and especially when things went wrong. He gave of his time freely in mentoring and advising colleagues at all levels and was prepared to scrub on any difficult primary or revision case when asked.

In his school and university days, Ian was all round athlete, he was the School Captain at Geelong College, the captain of numerous sports teams and developed a lifelong passion for sailing. He enjoyed competitive sailing at a high level and in more recent times, recreational sailing with Lyn and his boys, Robbie and Tim.

He had serious academic interests and contributed new ideas to the literature which included classifications, perhaps the best known being the "Classification and Management

of Congenital Deficiencies of the Lower Limbs” by Robert Gillespie and Ian Torode published in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery in 1983. He favoured long-term biological reconstruction and championed the use of rotationplasty for both congenital and acquired defects in the femur. He devised a classification of pelvic fractures in children which continues to be used. He had a major commitment to spinal surgery and had an enduring interest in the evolution of instrumentation when it advanced the care of his patients. He was involved in the development of growing rods for early onset scoliosis and championed the medial approach for open reduction for developmental dysplasia of the hip teaching a generation of consultants and fellows how to perform this surgery safely and elegantly. He knew that there was an association between this approach and the development of Type II growth arrest of the proximal femur and his last clinical paper to be submitted was on the use of a screw in the proximal femur to prevent progressive lateral tilt of the proximal epiphysis.

Ian underwent total hip arthroplasty in August 2015 and soon after developed major medical complications related to a pre-existing cardiac condition. He coped with the initial setbacks with humour and stoicism and initially made quite good progress. Regrettably, a fresh round of complications led to his passing. Ian is survived by his wife Lyn and his boys Robbie and Tim.