

The American Head and Neck Society
and the
Australian & New Zealand
Head and Neck Society
are pleased to announce the

Chris O'Brien Traveling
Fellowship, 2008



Purpose

The purpose of this fellowship is to encourage international exchange of information concerning the science, practice, and education in head and neck oncology and to establish professional and academic collaborations and friendships.

Basic Requirements

The Fellowship will be awarded every two years, and the scholar will attend either the Australian & New Zealand Head and Neck Society annual meeting or the quadrennial International Head and Neck Cancer Conference. The scholarship is available to members in good standing of the American Head and Neck Society or the Australian & New Zealand Head and Neck Society in any of the specialties who meet the following requirements:

- Has a major interest and accomplishment in clinic or basic sciences related to head and neck surgery and the related disciplines that manage patients with tumors of the head and neck
- Holds a current full-time academic appointment or is in private practice with a substantial focus on head and neck cancer
- Is actively practicing head and neck cancer care on the date the application is filed
- Is enthusiastic, personable, and possesses good communication skills

Activities

The Fellow is required to spend a minimum of two or three weeks in Australia and New Zealand/United States

- To attend and participate in the annual scientific meeting of the Australian & New Zealand Head and Neck Society, or the quadrennial International Head and Neck Cancer Conference
- To participate in the formal convocation ceremony of the meeting
- To attend and present an oral presentation
- To visit at least two medical centers in Australia and New Zealand/United States before or after the meetings to lecture and to share clinical and scientific expertise with the local multidisciplinary head and neck cancer teams

The academic and geographic aspects of the itinerary will be finalized in consultation and mutual agreement between the Fellow and the President or designated representative of the American Head and Neck Society and the Australian & New Zealand Head and Neck Society. The choice of head and neck oncologic centers to be visited depends to some extent on the special interest and expertise of the Fellow and his or her previously established professional contacts with centers in Australia and New Zealand or the United States.

His or her spouse is welcome to accompany the successful applicant. There will be many opportunities for social interaction, as well as these professional activities.

Financial Support

The American Head and Neck Society and the Australian & New Zealand Head and Neck Society will provide the sum of \$10,000 U.S. to the successful applicant, who will also be exempted from registration fees for the meetings. He/she must meet all travel and living expenses. The societies' representatives will meet with the Fellow about the centers to be visited in Australia and New Zealand or the United States, the local arrangements for each center, and other advice and recommendations about travel schedules. The Fellow is to make his/her own travel arrangements in North America, as this makes available to him/her reduced fares and travel packages for travel in Australia and New Zealand.

The Councils of the American Head and Neck Society and the Australian & New Zealand Head and Neck Society will select the Fellow after review and evaluation of the final applications. *The first candidate will be chosen from Australia or New Zealand.* A personal interview may be requested prior to the final selection.

Application Process

Applications for this traveling fellowship may be obtained from the American Head and Neck Society's website at www.ahns.info, the Australian & New Zealand Head and Neck Society's website at www.anzhns.org, or by writing to the secretary of the respective societies. An application form is also attached to this announcement.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is May 1, 2008. The successful candidate and an alternate will be selected and notified by June 1, 2008.

Christopher O'Brien, A.M., graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney in 1976 and then completed his residency and surgical training at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH). He then completed clinical fellowships in head and neck surgery and oncology in England and the United States and, in 1987, returned to Australia, where he joined the staff of RPAH as a consultant head and neck surgeon. There he contributed to the expansion of the clinical service, making it one of the largest in the country, and also established a comprehensive head and neck database. That database is the largest in Australasia and one of the largest in the world. He also established a basic research program and an international clinical fellowship program under the umbrella of the Sydney Head and Neck Cancer Institute, which he founded in 2002.



Professor Chris O'Brien

Professor O'Brien has two postgraduate degrees from the University of Sydney—a Masters of Surgery for his basic research in microvascular surgery and a Doctorate in Medicine for his work on the management of metastatic cancer in the neck.

He has authored more than 100 scientific papers and 17 book chapters and has been honored with invitations to many countries and institutions as a visiting professor and guest lecturer, including invitations to give numerous prestigious named lectures: the Hayes Martin Lecture in Washington in 2004, the Eugene Myers International Lecture in Los Angeles in 2005, the inaugural Jatin P. Shah Lecture in Prague in 2006, and the Semon Lecture in London in 2006. He was also made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in recognition of his contribution to the training of young British surgeons.

In 1998, Professor O'Brien founded the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Society, a multidisciplinary society comprising surgeons of all disciplines, radiation and medical oncologists, and allied health professionals. He was President of the Society in 2004. The Society is flourishing and will hold its 10th Annual Scientific Meeting in 2008. Professor O'Brien is also a member of the American Head and Neck Society and was invited to join the Council in 2005.

In 2003, Professor O'Brien became Director of the Sydney Cancer Centre, based at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the University of Sydney, while maintaining all of his clinical, teaching, and research responsibilities. He has developed a proposal to transform the Sydney Cancer Centre into a \$150 million world class comprehensive cancer center, and that project is moving forward with great momentum.

Chris O'Brien is widely known to the people of Australia for his many appearances over the last 12 years on the award winning reality TV program RPA, and on Australia Day 2005 he was made a Member the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to medicine. He is a devoted husband and father with many interests, including running, skiing, reading and playing guitar.

Unfortunately, in November 2006, Professor O'Brien was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. His initial treatment has been successful, and he continues his therapy with a fully positive and confident outlook. He stepped down from all of his clinical and administrative positions at the time of his diagnosis in order to concentrate on his recovery.

Professor O'Brien is currently writing a book and continues to mentor and guide registrars and fellows in clinical research and their training.

