

Douglas Cohen graduated in Medicine from the University of Sydney in 1941. In 1950, after a further period of post-graduate training, he obtained his Master of Surgery at the University of Sydney and Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

He was appointed to the staff of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney after which he restricted his practice to paediatric surgery.

During 1954-55 he worked at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London obtaining further experience in paediatric surgery and particularly in the newly developing field of cardio-thoracic surgery.

On returning to Sydney in 1955 he took over the paediatric cardiac surgery at the Childrens Hospital. The next few years saw the development of open heart surgery. He was involved in the development of the first Australian heart-lung machine.

Dr. Cohen was also involved in the management of solid tumours in childhood, another field that was advancing rapidly following the introduction of cytotoxic therapy.

His interest in child safety resulted in the formation of the Child Safety Centre. He was the first Chairman of the N.S.W. Branch of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia. He is currently a Medical Consultant to the Child Accident Prevention Trust in Great Britain.

In 1971 he became Head of the newly created Department of Paediatric Surgery at the Childrens Hospital.

He has been an invited speaker at numerous international meetings, including Visiting Professor to the Canadian College of Physicians and Surgeons and the

Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons, the New Zealand Paediatric Society and the International Hospitals Association in Oslo.

He is a Past-President of the Australian College of Paediatrics and of the Pacific Association of Paediatric Surgeons and was Chairman of the N.S.W. Branch of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, (1972-73).

He has been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the British, Australian and Canadian Associations of Paediatric Surgeons and the Australian and New Zealand Cardiac Society.

In 1981 he was created a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to paediatrics.

His interest in medical ethics stemmed from his appointment to the N.S.W. Medical Board on which he served for many years. On his retirement from the Board he was appointed Medical Consultant to the Complaints Unit of the N.S.W. Department of Health in which capacity he obtained a broad experience of many of the ethical and medico-legal problems which formed the basis for a series of articles and for a book on this subject.

Dr. Cohen retired from clinical surgery in 1988. He is currently living in Kingston upon Thames, England with his wife Joy. They return to Australia each year, where he has a house on the Central Coast of NSW.