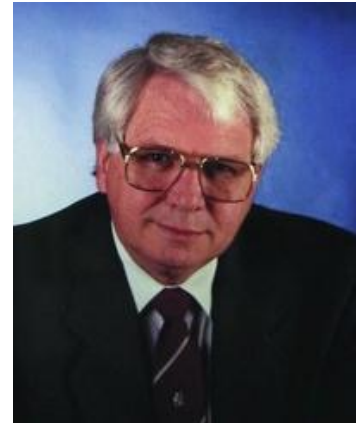


NECKSAFE PATRON: PROFESSOR JOHN YEO AO

John Yeo is a leader in the prevention of injury and rehabilitation of people with spinal injuries.

After working as a Resident Medical Officer at both the Royal North Shore Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, John took up a position as Surgical Registrar in the United Kingdom. He also spent a year in General Practice in Saskatchewan, Canada, before returning to rural General Practice in Australia.

By 1965, however, he was already interested in spinal injuries and began working in this area as Senior Registrar in Paraplegia at Royal North Shore Hospital. In 1967, he won a Churchill Fellowship to study recent advances in the treatment of paraplegia and quadriplegia in the USA, Canada, Europe, the UK, Israel and India. Returning to Australia in 1968, he took up the position of Medical Director and Head of the Spinal Injuries Unit at the Royal North Shore Hospital, a position he held until 1992. He founded the Spinal Research Foundation in 1976.



Concurrently since 1988 he was the Medical Director of the Moorong Spinal Unit, Royal Rehabilitation Centre in Ryde, Sydney. In this role, he was also the Director and Chairman of the "Awareness and Prevention" Program for Schools. John has played an important role in education his whole career, being involved in postgraduate teaching of medical and nursing students, as well as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, ambulance officers, and in lecturing to university groups such as students from the Faculty of Arts and Education.

Alongside these appointments, John has continued his research into both the rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injuries and the promotion of prevention of spinal cord injury in the community. In addition, he has been integral to the development of various devices, including the Russell Extrication Device ("RED") which is used for patients suspected of having spinal injuries, particularly after motor vehicle accidents. He also worked for some time on the development of sacral nerve stimulators to assist in emptying the paralysed neurogenic bladder. Working with the Department of Diagnostic Radiology, he has been able to use MRI investigation to analyse and identify pathology in recent spinal cord injury.



John Yeo receiving the International Spinal Cord Society's medal in 2000 by Professor Hans Frankel

John also contributed to the launch of the NeckSafe video by the NSW Rugby League in March 1990 and to altering the rules in Rugby Union to help reduce spinal injuries. This video was distributed to Rugby League Clubs and schools across the State to demonstrate adequate preparation and training necessary before games, and appropriate first aid for injured players.

Aside from his hospital appointments, he continues to have an active outreach practice. To date, he has visited hospitals in Nairobi, Singapore, Shanghai, Honiara, Port Moresby, Goroka, Mt Hagan, Sopas, Lai, Bougainville, Kenya, China, Fiji, South Africa, Solomon Islands, France, Japan and Noumea to advise and treat patients with spinal cord injuries.

Over the past 20 years, he has been invited as a Medical Consultant in the medico-legal issues involved in adequate patient care of paraplegic and quadriplegia patients in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Japan, France, South Africa and Singapore.

John has been involved in the care of over 3000 paraplegic and quadriplegic patients in a career which has brought hope and professionalism to many where it did not previously exist.

He has been extensively honoured internationally and in Australia as AO (Officer of the Order of Australia).

John has been associated with NeckSafe since its inception and we are delighted to have him as one of our Patrons.