

# Press Release

## COLLEGE OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS - DAVID DEWHURST AWARD – 2011

Every year the College of Biomedical Engineering honours an outstanding individual in our profession with the David Dewhurst Award.

David was probably the first true practitioner of biomedical engineering in Australia.

With an honours degree in the classics, and an excellent knowledge of latin, David was initially destined to follow his father in to the ministry, but WW II intervened, and David saw service in the Signal Corps.

After the war, fascinated by this new world of electronics, David took a BSc in physiology and electronics and was appointed lecturer in Physiology in Melbourne University in 1949. In the years that followed, he soon transformed a small electrophysiology lab in to a world renowned centre for medical instrumentation.

David received a PhD in 1959 for research in to cell membrane physics and in 1964 was appointed Reader in Physics at the University.

In 1961 he started a course in medical electronics for biomedical researchers, the first course in biomedical engineering in Australia, well before the concept, let alone the name or profession of biomedical engineering had ever been considered.

David was active in the formative years of the IFMBE, and was also instrumental in the formation of the SMBE(Vic) and subsequently SMBE(NSW) and the SMBE(SA) and the umbrella affiliation body of the AFMBE. His interest in improving the organisation and the status of biomedical engineering in Australia and his boundless energy and enthusiasm was a major factor in the formation of the IBME, the forerunner to this College.

Many biomedical engineers and physicists, who have, or are working in the profession today, can thank David for their training and entry in to the profession.

David Dewhurst, AM, BA, MSc, PhD, FIEAust, FIEM, outstanding teacher and pioneer in the field of biophysics and medical instrumentation and honorary life member of the IFMBE passed away on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1996, and on that day the profession lost a founding father, a mentor, and many of us lost a good friend.

David's memory is kept alive by this award.

The award is for services to the profession of biomedical engineering.

The criteria for the award are –

- A highly significant contribution through technical innovations, to the science, or practice, of biomedical engineering.
- Long standing eminence in the science or practice of biomedical engineering
- Exceptional and sustained management or leadership relating to biomedical engineering.

In 2011 the Board of the College of Biomedical Engineering is presenting the David Dewhurst Award to Dr Graham Cameron Grant BE MBBS FIEAust CPEng (Biomed) of Roseville Chase in the Sydney Divison.

Graham is both an engineer and a medical doctor. He has a BE in mechanical and electrical Engineering from Sydney University and an MBBS from the University of London. He specialised in Anaesthesia, gaining his qualifications in the US.

Over his career has made significant contributions to biomedical engineering and medicine by improving the delivery of anaesthesia through innovations in safer delivery, ventilation and humidification technologies.

The David Dewhurst Award for 2011 will be presented to Graham at a cocktail function in the Sydney Division Office of Engineers Australia on 14 December 2011.

**All College members, SMBE members, Sydney Division members, friends and acquaintances of Graham are invited to the proceedings and presentation, to catch up with Graham, re-kindle old memories, enjoy the hospitality of Engineers Australia, and above all, honour the memory of David Dewhurst.**

#### **Details –**

**Where -** Sydney Division, Engineers Australia  
Level 3, 8 Thomas Street  
Chatswood NSW 2067

Phone: 02 9410 5600  
Fax: 02 9410 0000

**When** 6.00PM for 7.00PM  
Wednesday, 14 December 2011

**RSVP by Tuesday  
13 December** <https://events.engineersaustralia.org.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=145&s=P0K0LX3AI>

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