

GRAEME SMITH ORATION

The Oration was instigated in 2024 to mark the contribution of Graeme Crawford Smith to Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand. The Oration is an invited paper, and there are no guidelines for its content. Thus, the Oration will reflect the particular interests of the speaker.

Graeme Crawford Smith was born on February 15, 1939, at Camberwell, Victoria. He was educated at Surrey Hills State School, Box Hill State School and Box Hill High School before graduating MBBS from the University of Melbourne in 1961. He gained an MD from Monash in 1973, and a Diploma in Psychological Medicine from Melbourne University in 1975.

In his role as department head at Monash he initiated a formal program in psychoanalytic studies and played an active role in the foundations of the Monash University Neurosciences Group.

In later years he was an independent advisor to the Victorian State Government Multiple and Complex Needs Initiative, which targeted those people with disabilities in more than one health field for whom existing service structures were inadequate. He practised as a consultation-liaison psychiatrist and psychotherapist for patients with physical and psychiatric comorbidity, and was chair of national and international organisations in that field.

In 1964 he was awarded the Australian Medical Association Essay Gold Medal. In 2004, the Royal Australian New Zealand College of Psychiatrists' Medal of Honour for his major long-term contribution to a range of College activities, particularly for his leadership and promotion of consultation-liaison psychiatry in both the academic and general health sectors. He played a key role in establishing the RANZCP's Section of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and was Foundation Chair (1992-2001).

Smith was an outstanding advocate for the training and education of health professionals, particularly in specialist psychiatry training and was a senior examiner for the Australian Medical Council (1997-2013). He was made a Fellow of RANZCP in 1981 and a Fellow of the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine in 1998.

Upon retiring from Monash, Smith was appointed Emeritus Professor in 2005.