

PROFESSOR MICHAEL A. TONKIN

Overview: Professor Tonkin trained in Orthopaedic Surgery and Hand Surgery in Australia, UK and USA. He was invited to Fellowships of the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh (1982) and The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) (1984). He was appointed as a hand surgeon at Royal North Shore Hospital in 1986 and The Children's Hospital at Camperdown in 1989. In 1993 he established an independent Department of Hand Surgery at RNSH and remained as Head of Department for over 20 years. There are currently seven members of department at consultant level, three rotating accredited training registrars and two fellows in hand surgery. The RNSH Integrated Hand Unit was established in 2012 under his direction. Professor Tonkin was appointed to the first Chair of Hand Surgery in Australia (1999). Previously, he held academic positions as Clinical Senior Lecturer (1995-6) and Clinical Associate Professor (1996-1999) in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney. He was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Medicine at The University of Sydney in 1997.



Teaching: He developed a formal hand surgery syllabus and training programme for accredited trainee registrars of the Australian Orthopaedic Association and Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons in Sydney, beginning in 1989 and continuing to the present time. He established the Post-Fellowship Education and Training Hand Surgery Programme, within the RACS. This is conducted by the Australian Hand Surgery Society (AHSS) Education Committee, which Professor Tonkin chaired for many years. It provides a specific training curriculum, assessment of performance and certification for those wishing to pursue a career in hand surgery. He has been involved in medical student teaching programmes, acted as an examiner and has supervised the theses of medical students and the Master of Surgery degrees of surgical trainees. He organised a hand surgery fellowship programme which has seen 83 foreign graduate surgeons and over 60 Australian graduate surgeons spend six or 12 months at RNSH and the Children's Hospital. He has spent time in under-developed regions in India and Vietnam, treating disadvantaged patients and teaching local surgeons the skills to undertake this work. He is an Honorary member of the Australian, New Zealand, South African and British Hand Surgery Societies and the New South Wales Association of Hand Surgery, and is an International member of the American (Lifetime Member) and Japanese societies. He has acted as convenor of scientific programmes at major meetings, including the inaugural APFSSH Congress (Perth, 1997); the IFSSH Triennial Congress (Sydney, 2007); The Cerebral Palsy Symposium (Paris, 2017); the Congenital Hand Anomalies Study Group (Sydney, 1997, 2016); and for national Hand Surgery, Orthopaedic, Plastic Surgery and College scientific meetings, including registrar training courses.

Administration: Professor Tonkin has served in administrative positions of national and international bodies, notably as AHSS President, as the Asian-Pacific Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (APFSSH) President and as Secretary-General, then President of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH)(2013-2016), with 57 member societies.

Research, Grants: Professor Tonkin is an Editor of the Journal of Hand Surgery, European and of the Asian-Pacific Journal of Hand Surgery and Assistant Editor of the IFSSH Ezine. He has contributed over 110 articles to peer-reviewed literature, in clinical and basic scientific research; and has written over 40 chapters in textbooks. He has developed universally approved surgical classification systems in the fields of congenital hand surgery, cerebral palsy involving the upper limb and rheumatoid hand deformity. He has attracted over \$1.8 million in clinical and basic scientific research funding.