

3089

THE BAIRD INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2021

THE ONGOING GIFTS OF DOUG BAIRD

The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG

Patron of The Baird Institute

THE BAIRD INSTITUTE
NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2021
THE ONGOING GIFTS OF DOUG BAIRD

The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG

Patron of The Baird Institute

This year, 2021, is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of The Baird Institute. Our celebrations had to be 'virtual' because of the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on us all. However, we hope that 2022 will afford us a renewed opportunity to celebrate, in a properly festive way, the 21st anniversary. We hope to do so actually and in the presence of our team and its wonderful supporters.

Vivid recollections of our founder, Doug Baird in the early days will be included in the celebrations. I had known him in university days where he stood out for his brilliance and innovation. This issue of the newsletter will contain memories of Doug Baird, the surgeon. My mother, Jean Kirby, was one of his early bypass patients. How revolutionary his techniques seemed in those days. However, research and scientific experimentation must continue at the Baird Institute the cutting edge of world leadership. During the COVID lockdowns in 2021, some laboratory research and recruitment for clinical trials had to be suspended. They will be revived in 2022.

In consequence of the inability to gather in large groups, it was necessary, in 2021, to conduct our nurses' education online. Two different webinars

were undertaken in the latter half of 2021. One was on aortic surgery, presented by Professor Paul Bannon. The other was on advanced robotic surgery for lung cancer patients, presented by A/Prof. Chris Cao. The new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Professor Mark Scott AO, organised a splendid public conversation with Professor Sean Lal who described his work at the Sydney Heart Bank, which is an initiative of The Baird Institute.

A new research assistant has been recruited to the Baird Institute, with specialities in data and management skills. It is planned to develop a cardio thoracic research database that will ensure the availability of high-quality data for use in a variety of future research projects. Many other projects are planned.

Patrons sometimes get closer to their commitments than they necessarily expected. I myself will undertake a renewal of my 2005 CAGS procedure and also replacement of my aortic valve in 2021. This is the ultimate tribute to the early initiatives of Doug Baird and colleagues at the Page Pavilion decades ago. What was then often experimental, is now established surgical practice. But the needs of first-rate data, research and clinical practice remain at the forefront of the legacy Doug Baird and his colleagues bequeathed to us. We must maintain and strengthen this legacy.



The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG
Patron, The Baird Institute