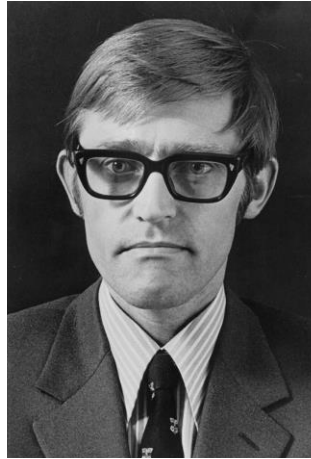


**COLE Owen**  
**1937 - 1993**



Owen Russell Cole was an individualist with a reputation for meticulous surgery, innovative ideas and enormous organisational energy. Obsessed with perfection, he was highly regarded for his application, integrity, capacity for original thinking and considerable operating skills.

A University of Melbourne graduate (1961), Owen completed a surgical residency at the Royal Melbourne Hospital (FRACS 1966) and was one of the first Registrars to start plastic surgery training at the new Victorian Plastic Surgery Unit set up by Sir Benjamin Rank. He did not follow traditional British post graduate training and proceeded to Cleveland Clinic in the USA where he completed a full resident training program. He became American Board Certified (Foreign) in 1969, one of the first Australian's to achieve this honor.

Owen returned to Australia and commenced practice in a long partnership with George Gunter. He was immediately appointed Consultant to the Royal Children's Hospital and retired after 24 years' service only weeks before his untimely death. He was also a consultant at Prince Henry's Hospital and the Western General (then Footscray) Hospital.

Owen received his Fellowship of the American College of Surgeons in 1971 and was an active member of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He was a founding member of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons and also active within the Australian Hand Club and the Australian Aesthetic Surgery Society. He was a founding member of the Australian Cleft palate Association and President at the time of his death.

With a deep commitment to his profession, he was a member of the Board of Plastic Surgery from 1985-1991 and Chairman 1989-1991. He was President of the Victorian Chapter of the Division of Plastic Surgery 1985-1987, and a member of the organizing committee of no less than six international meetings and Chairman of the program committee for the Seventh International Congress of Cleft palate and related Craniofacial Anomalies in 1993.

Owen presented many papers at major meetings and was committed to the teaching process. He established the first formal training course for registrars in Melbourne in 1972 and was later Convener of the National Post-graduate Training Course in 1984 and 1985.

At the Royal Children's Hospital, he was Deputy Director of Plastic Surgery throughout the 80's and acting director in 1989. He commenced the microsurgical service in 1973 and replanted a foot in the same year, one of the first in Australia.

Owen volunteered overseas and spent four months in Vietnam in 1967 and also worked in Equador and Fiji for Interplast.

Owen was universally respected and liked within the surgical profession and remained an enthusiastic participant of his full life. A fitness fanatic, he was training for triathlons until the end, when he died in a freak surfing accident in Indonesia. He is survived by his wife Marie and two children, Mandie and Adam.