

Professor Eric Espiner

Eric graduated from the University of Otago Medical School in 1957, was awarded an MD from the University of Otago in 1964 and made a Fellow of the Royal Society of NZ in 1992. Eric's career in the discipline of Endocrinology commenced when he was a medical registrar at Princess Margaret Hospital, Christchurch in the early 1960's. It was there that he got involved with researching the HPA axis in sheep. This was before assays were available to measure ACTH or cortisol. Indeed, Eric's research was at the forefront for developing assays for these hormones and their measurement lead to numerous exciting publications. Not all of Eric's research on the HPA axis was however was conducted at The Princess Margaret Hospital in Christchurch. Eric was a visiting Research assistant in the Department of Medicine at the Postgraduate Medical School in London from 1963 to 1965. From 1965 to 1967 he was an International Post Doctoral US Public Health Scholar at the Harvard Medical School in Boston. In 1967 Eric returned to Christchurch where he held several Professorial positions at the Princes Margaret Hospital and the Department of Medicine, Christchurch School of Medicine until his retirement in 2000. During these years Eric's research changed from studying the HPA axis to studying hormones and the heart. Once again Eric was at the forefront of studying a new area of endocrinology. He and his team were one of the first groups to begin to understand roles for naturietic hormones and cardiovascular regulation, an important area of endocrine research that continues at the Christchurch Medical School today.

All of this cutting edge research resulted in numerous awards for Eric and more than 350 peer reviewed publications. Over these years Eric was involved with training endocrinologists, as well as teaching and mentoring many research scientists.

Eric has been a highly valued member of the NZSE over many years. He was the Nancy Sirett Lecturer in 2000, and was awarded An NZSE Honorary Life Membership in 2010.