

Diagnostic Immunopathologists

Serum electrophoresis and identification of the gamma zone (immunoglobulins) and M bands had been available in general hospital pathology laboratories since the 1930s, but post World War 2 more explicit immune tests started to become available. In 1968 [Prof Anders Wangel](#) (1934-2013), MD, DPhil, FRACP, FRCP was appointed to the Mitchell Chair of Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He was only 33 years old but already had an impressive publication record. During the next decade he established a small diagnostic immune laboratory with a particular interest in autoantibodies. His colleague and Reader in Medicine, [Dr. Ian Forbes](#) (1930-2017), MD, FRACP, also had an immunological interest, particularly in immune deficiency and lympho-proliferation and developed a number of immune function tests. Both physicians taught and supervised higher degree students.

In 1976 [Professor John Bradley](#), FRCP, FRCPA arrived from Liverpool, UK, to take up his joint appointments as Consultant Immunologist/Immunopathologist and inaugural Academic Head and A/Professor of the newly created Immunology Department at Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders University. His brief was to provide a consultative clinical service in clinical immunology to FMC, to establish a comprehensive diagnostic immunology laboratory (as part of South Path Laboratory of FMC), to establish a research program in immunology and to teach and train in his field. Over the next 23 years he carried out these instructions in an exemplary fashion with the Department producing a long list of both national and international higher degree graduates. Prof Bradley was appointed the chief censor in immunopathology for the RCPA and Chairman of the RCPA Quality Assurance Program in Immunology.

[Professor Heddy Zola](#), PhD, FRCPA (Hon), from the UK, joined the Department in 1978 and made a major contribution to the Flow Cytometry Laboratory and in the production of monoclonal antibodies for both diagnostic and research purposes. Prof Zola also mentored and supervised many research students. Numerous scientific publications and several immunology textbooks were published from the Department over this period including *Clinical Immunology* by Oxford University Press, 1997, and *Diagnostic Immunopathology: Laboratory Practice and Clinical Application* by Cambridge Press, 1995.

After Prof Bradley's retirement in 1999 subsequent Heads of the Department were Drs. Peter Roberts-Thomson (1999-2013) and Tom Gordon, MD, PhD, FRACP, FRCPA, (2014-2020).

Prof John Bradley

Prof Peter Roberts-Thomson

Prof Tom Gordon



The Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science ([IMVS](#)) was established in the late 1930s by the then RAH superintendent and Dean of Medicine, [Sir Trent Champion de Crespigny](#). This Institute rapidly developed a celebrated national and international reputation in diagnostic pathology, training and research. It was situated strategically on the grounds of the RAH and close to the University of Adelaide. Its purpose was to provide a diagnostic laboratory service to the RAH (and SA in general) and create an organization providing comprehensive pathology training and medical research.

During the 1980-2000 period strong relationships with the RAH and The University of Adelaide developed which allowed the IMVS to diversify actively across emerging areas of Pathology-and the new science of immunology was one such example. Further the early 1990's saw the establishment of [the Hanson Institute](#) whose specific purpose was innovative medical research.

In the mid 1980's [Professor Matthew Vadas](#) AO, PhD, DSc, FRACP, FRCPA, FARMS, was appointed Head of the Immunology Laboratory and Head of the Clinical Immunology Unit (RAH) and soon after the inaugural Director of the Hanson Institute.

Further in 1985 [Professor Angel Lopez](#) AO, MD, PhD, FRCPA, FAA, FARMS, was also appointed as an Immunopathologist and in 2008, following Prof Vadas' resignation, he became Head of the Division of Human Immunology and founder and Co-Director of the Research Centre for Cancer Biology (CCB).

Another appointment to the IMVS in 1986 was [Dr. David Gillis](#), MB BS (Hons), FRACP, FRCPA, Clinical Director of Clinical Immunology and Immunopathology. Thus, the scene was set for the IMVS to make rapid expansion in diagnostic immunology and particularly in the research field involving cytokines, endothelial function, cytokine receptors and their metabolic pathways of activation. Dr. Gillis also made substantial contributions in the immunology and allergy clinic and as consultant to the RAH and was a co-supervisor for both [Dr. William Smith](#) who completed his FRACP, FRCPA and PhD at this time and [Dr. Pravin Hissaria](#), MD, DM, FRACP, FRCPA, an immunologist from Vellore.

In 2008 SA Pathology was created by Government direction from the amalgamation of IMVS, South Path (FMC) and the diagnostic laboratories at the QEH and the Women and Children's Hospital (WCH). The multi-sited Immunology Directorate consisted of diagnostic immunology laboratories, the flow cytometry units and research labs and employed over 100 staff members. Professor Peter Roberts-Thomson was the first Immunology Director (2008-2013) followed by Professor Bob Heddle (2014-2017), Professor Tom Gordon (2018-2019) and [Dr. Tatjana Banovic](#) MD, PhD, FRCPA. This amalgamation was during a difficult period where SA Health's economic imperatives impacted poorly on SA Pathology's efficiency and reputation.