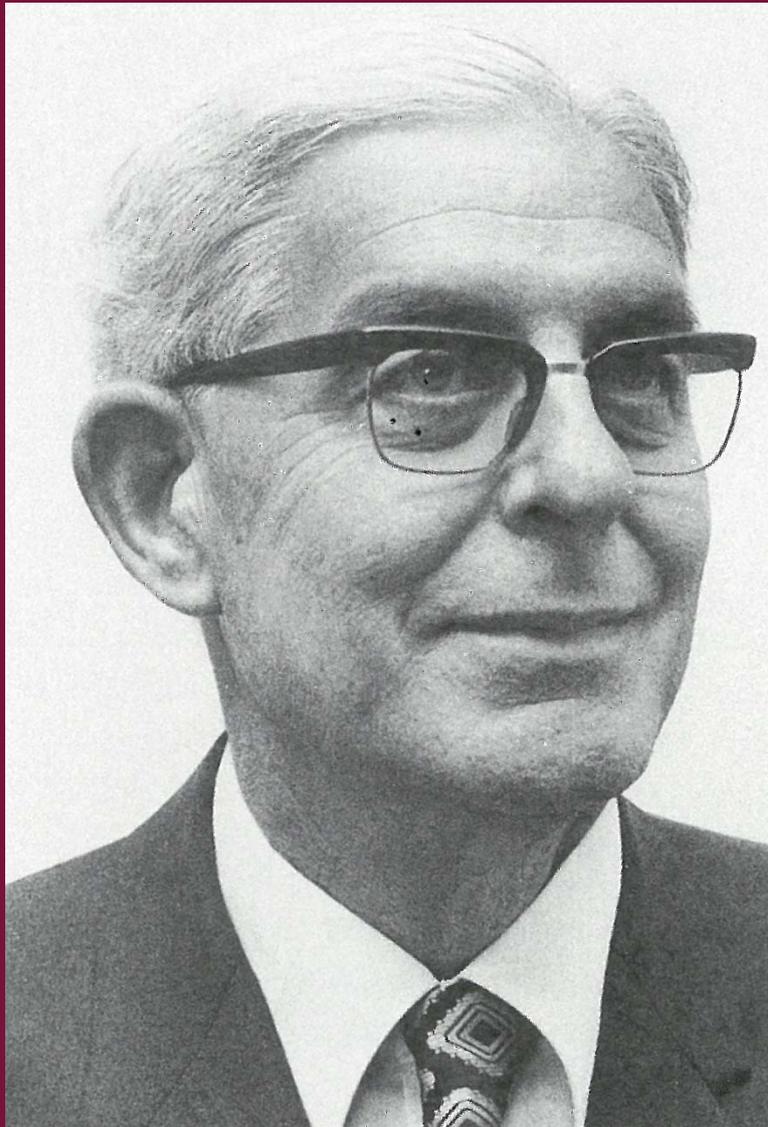




HUMANS OF THE ROYAL



Dr Grantley Stable

Dr Grantley Stable O.B.E. was an eminent paediatrician well known and regarded for his significant contribution to the care of newborn and premature babies.

After graduating in medicine from the University of Queensland in 1943, and serving with the RAAF during World War II, Grantley Stable trained in Paediatrics in Brisbane and overseas.

He was appointed to the Women's Hospital as a Visiting Paediatrician in 1955.

Dr Stable not only had a keen interest in the welfare of newborn babies, but in educating their caregivers. His lectures to midwives were captured in a locally published book called 'A Guide to the Nursing Care of the Newborn'.

In 1978, at the then compulsory retirement age of 60, Dr Stable retired from the Royal Women's Hospital and the Royal Children's Hospital where he held a Visiting Medical Officer position.

After retiring, Dr Stable examined babies for adoption as the Department of Family Services medical officer, and was granted an appointment as Honorary Consultant Paediatrician by the Royal Women's Hospital Board.

In recognition of Dr Stable's substantial contribution, the Royal Women's Hospital Premature Nursery, as it was known, was named in his honour. A commemorative plaque was unveiled by Minister for Health Sir William Knox in 1978. When the Grantley Stable Neonatal Unit relocated in 1987, it comprised an Intensive Care Nursery and a Special Care Nursery, each occupying one wing of the cross-shaped building.

When the Royal Women's Hospital (RWH) moved into the Ned Hanlon Building in August 2000, the Grantley Stable Neonatal Unit (GSNU) was retained. The RWH then officially merged with the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 2002 with the completion of East Block, becoming the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH).

After a visit to the GSNU in December 2000, Dr Stable wrote in a letter to the Director: 'During my lifetime I have been able to witness the development of neonatal care from the time when babies were considered to be only a by-product of pregnancy and all concern was for the mother's wellbeing. It is now evident that they have equal rights to the same degree of care as has the rest of the community.'

Dr Stable's son, Dr Robert Stable is the Chair of Metro North Hospital and Health Service.