

Andrew Browning AM FRCOG FRANZCOG(Hon)

*Andrew Browning is an Australian-trained obstetrician who has spent his professional career as a medical missionary volunteering in Africa, specialising in obstetric fistula surgery. He has been involved in the care of over 12,000 fistula patients in Africa and Southeast Asia. He took part in establishing charities in Ethiopia and Tanzania to build and run free maternity hospitals, for prevention of fistula. These charities and hospitals have overseen the safe delivery of over 80,000 women to date and trained nearly a thousand midwives in clinical skills. In Australia he co-founded the Barbara May Foundation to fund the hospitals.*

*He assists the FIGO (International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics) global fistula surgery training program as chair of the FIGO Fistula and Genital Trauma Committee and of the FIGO Expert Advisory Group on Obstetric Fistula. He advises the UN and WHO on fistula and related issues and is a frequent keynote speaker at international medical conferences.*

*He has written over 60 scientific publications, books and chapters on obstetric fistula. For his services to international maternal health he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.*

Brian Hancock MD FRCS FRCOG(Hon)

*Brian Hancock has performed about 1,500 operations for fistula repair and related conditions in twelve African countries, mostly from 2000 to 2013. He first encountered a patient with a vesico-vaginal fistula whilst working as a general surgeon in the late 60s at Kamuli Mission Hospital and was fortunate to find a copy of the classic textbook on the vesical vaginal fistula by Chassar Moir written in the 1950s. Following Moir's guidance he operated successfully on a dozen patients. That inspired him to visit the famous Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa. With the encouragement of Reg and Catherine Hamlin he was welcomed as a regular visitor, initially to learn from their wealth of experience. Later he helped there with problem cases, taking advantage of experience as a colorectal surgeon in the UK. After retiring from practice in the UK in 2000, he was able to spend about three months a year visiting his old hospital, and others in Uganda. While keeping up his practice in Ethiopia, he was invited to work in ten other African countries, and had the opportunity to improve his understanding by observing and working with many established world experts.*