



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE



ST VINCENT'S  
HOSPITAL  
MELBOURNE

A FACILITY OF ST VINCENT'S HEALTH AUSTRALIA

# *History of St Vincent's Clinical School*

## *1910 - 2020*

## Medical education in the mid-19th century

In the 1830s students attended hospitals but received no systematic clinical teaching...physical examination of a patient was rarely carried out either by student or physician. Stokes and Graves in Dublin were stressing the value of clinical signs, but it was accepted only slowly in Britain.



ROBERT GRAVES 1796-1853

...clinical examinations in the final M.B. were instituted in Cambridge in 1842 and this was the first occasion it had been done in Britain.

A standardised form of medical education in Britain was in force when the Act setting up the General Council for Medical Education and Registration was passed in 1858.



## Support for a Melbourne Medical School

'We conceive not only has the time arrived for a School of Medicine to be established, but the necessity also.

'....Among the thousands of young men now entering adult life, there are no doubt some who desire to embrace the profession of medicine, but the expenses of the voyage to and from Europe, of a residence of at least three years where they should prosecute their studies, and of College and class fees, render the outlay too heavy.

The parents ..... very properly dread the danger (moral as well as physical) of sending their sons, or wards, so far away ... when, if unprotected by friends or family, or unrestrained by wholesome control, they may become easy victims of the seductions of a gay metropolis...'



## Opposition to a Melbourne Medical School

Victorian Chief Secretary on the grounds that the immigration of consumptive doctors could provide the colony's medical needs more cheaply

The University, with Redmond Barry as Chancellor, giving priority to a Law School – the Medical School was eventually funded by a cut in salaries, including law lecturers



Initially, many members of the medical profession were opposed





# Anthony Colling Brownless

Born 19 January 1817 in Kent, England

Apprenticed for the study of medicine to Charles Wilks in Kent, then studied at St Bartholomew's Hospital and graduated as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons and as a licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries in June 1841

Took the M.D. of St Andrew's in 1847 and was elected to the Royal General Dispensary, Aldersgate Street

Resigned due to ill health, left from Liverpool in the *Chaseley* and arrived in Melbourne December 1852



## Anthony Colling Brownless

Appointed physician to the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum in 1853 and to the Melbourne Hospital in 1854, building an extensive private practice

Appointed a member of the Council of the University of Melbourne in June 1855 and at once devoted all his energies to the formation of a medical school, presenting his first scheme to council in January 1857

Appointed vice-chancellor in May 1858, holding the position for 29 years until appointed chancellor in April 1887, holding this position until his death in 1897



# Anthony Colling Brownless

Converted to Catholicism in 1853 and served on the Catholic Education Commission for 33 years

In a community in which relatively few Catholics held prominent posts he was continually called on to represent his church's interests

In line with church policy he refused an invitation in 1866 to sit on the royal commission on education

Pope Pius IX conferred the knighthood of the Order of St Gregory the Great in 1870



Pope Leo XIII made him a knight commander of the Order of Pius in 1883

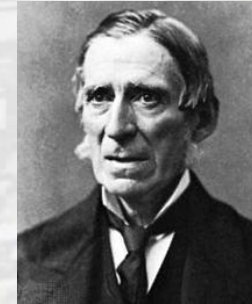
Listed as Consulting Physician at the time of the opening of St Vincent's in 1893





## Melbourne Medical School beginnings

Despite advice from James Paget and against strong opposition, Brownless insisted on a five year course involving vigorous attention to both preclinical and clinical subjects at a standard far more severe than that obtaining in Britain



On 3rd March 1862 John Macadam commenced chemistry classes in his own laboratory, using his own materials to three students – Patrick Moloney, William Carey Rees and Alexander Mackie



With assistance from Paget and Barry, George Britton Halford was appointed in 1863 as the Professorial Chair of Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology, becoming the first Dean in 1876







Original Medical  
School 1864



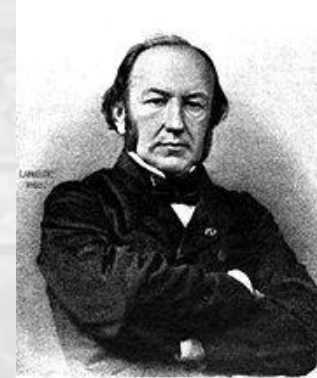
Students in the courtyard of the old medical  
school in 1878



First women to enter the Medical  
Course in 1887

## Medical education in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century

Explosion of knowledge about human biology and disease led by Virchow, Cohnheim and Koch, about physiology by Bernard and about microorganisms as the cause of disease by Pasteur



William Osler, as Physician-in-Chief of the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Professor of Medicine, developed a teaching model that emphasised bedside learning and established the medical residency system

Abraham Flexner published a review of medical education in 1910 that emphasised medical education in an environment tested and enriched by research



“ He who studies medicine without books sails an uncharted sea, but he who studies medicine without patients does not go to sea at all.”

“I desire no other epitaph ... than the statement that I taught medical students in the wards, as I regard this as by far the most useful and important work I have been called upon to do.”

**William Osler**  
**1849 - 1919**

*The Four Doctors* by John Singer Sargent  
William Henry Welch, William Stewart  
Halsted, William Osler, Howard Kelly



## Mother Mary Berchmans Daly

Born Anne Mary Daly in Lorrha Ireland, 28 May 1859, came to Australia at age 6 years

Appointed to the staff of St Mary's Cathedral School in Sydney 1880 and entered the novitiate at Potts Point 1881

One of the pioneering Sisters who went to Melbourne in 1889, appointed Rectress in 1892 and founded St Vincent's Hospital in 1893

Described by Sir Thomas Dunhill as  
'.. a lady, with great vision, with intuition such as .. very few .. in this world have'







## St Vincent's Clinical School beginnings

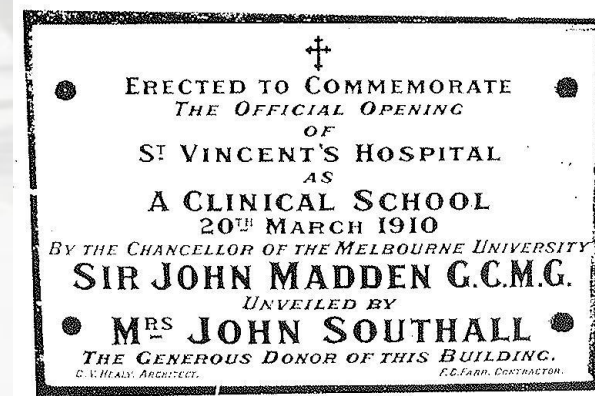
Mother Berchmans Daly applied to the University Council in 1907 to establish a clinical school, as had St Vincent's Hospital in Dublin

'Almost every great modern hospital makes use of its clinical material for the instruction of those who seek to enter the profession of medicine...the presence of earnest students at the bedside stimulates the work of those entrusted with their instruction...entirely to the benefit of all concerned'

St Vincent's Hospital Annual Report 1907-1908

Mother Berchmans conferred with the Dean, Professor Harry Allen, increasing medical beds at the expense of gynaecology and financing a pathology department with the support of Mrs John Southall

Agreement for the clinical school signed 23rd June 1909 and officially opened 20th March 1910 by the Chancellor, Sir John Madden



## St Vincent's Clinical School beginnings



‘The students at your hospital are of course the most immediate gainers, as with the example of St Vincent’s treatment of its students as a guide the other hospitals may be stimulated to an attempt to reach the same ideal..’

**Letter to Mother Rectress from the Secretary of the Medical Students Society 1910**

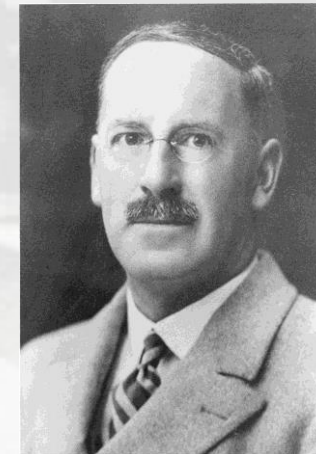


## St Vincent's Clinical School beginnings

Establishment of the first Electoral College with University representation for the appointment of medical staff

Alexander Lewers and Leslie Latham were appointed Clinical Lecturers in Medicine and W.H. Summons and A.E. Rowden White Medical Tutors. David Murray Morton and Douglas Shiels were appointed Clinical Lecturers in Surgery and Thomas Peel Dunhill and Hugh Berchmans Devine Surgical Tutors

Mr D Murray Morton was the first Dean of the new Clinical School and was the representative on Faculty





# CLINICAL DEANS 1910-1938



D Murray-Morton  
1910-1914 1925-1926



A E Lewers  
1915-1916



HB Devine  
1917-1919 1927-1930



LS Latham  
1920



CG Shaw  
1921-1924 1937-1938



AE Rowden White  
1931-1933



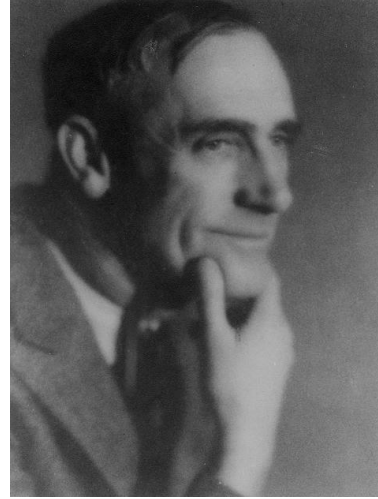
JF Mackenzie  
1934-1936



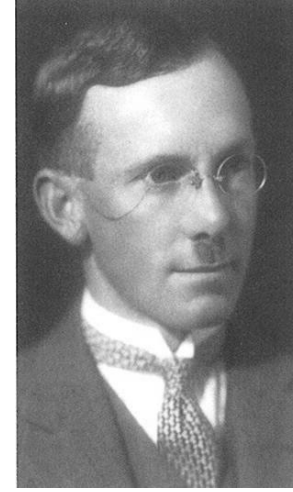
# CLINICAL DEANS 1939-1948



RF O'Sullivan  
1939-1940



L Doyle  
1941-1942



F Niall  
1943-1944



FJ Colahan  
1945-1946



JG Hayden  
1947-1948

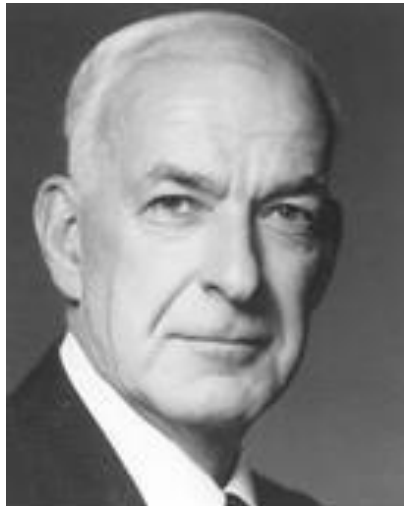
# CLINICAL DEANS 1949-1963



CH Osborn  
1949-1953



HG Furnell  
1954-1956

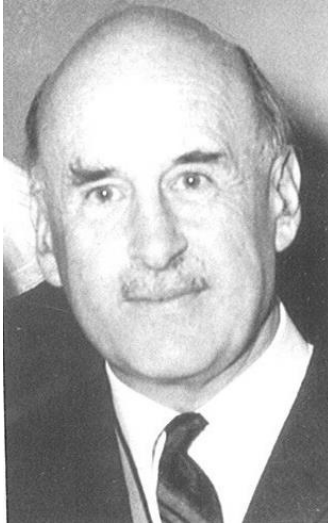


JP Horan  
1957-1959



A Kelly  
1960-1963

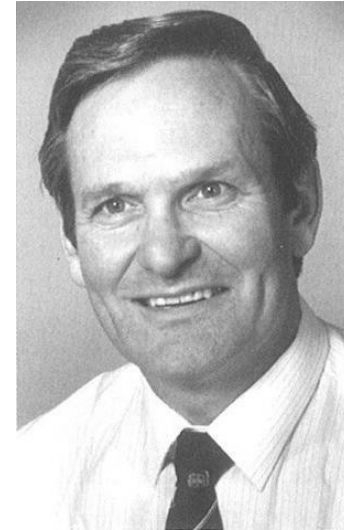
# CLINICAL DEANS 1964 - 1988



RM Biggins  
1964-1972



JJ Billings  
1973-1982



G Whelan  
1983-1988

# CLINICAL DEANS 1989 - 2020



W Beswick  
1989-2011



J Tse  
2011 - current





# Acknowledgements

The History of Medicine at St Vincent's Hospital 1893-2006

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Professor DG Penington



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