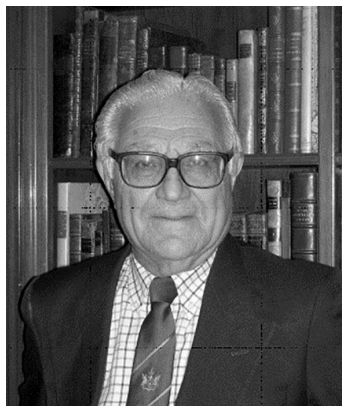


In Memoriam



Dr. S.W.A. Gunn (1926-2022) MD

Sisvan William Aram Gunn (S.W.A) was born on February 10, 1926, in Vancouver, Canada (British Columbia). Gunn completed his medical studies in Geneva.

S. William A. Gunn, MD, MS, FRCSC, FRCSI (Hon), DSC (Hon), Dr.hc was a surgeon and a profound scholar of international health issues, an expert in the field of disaster management and humanitarian medicine.

Formerly Head of the World Health Organization's Emergency Relief Operations, he conducted numerous missions in the field, advised the United Nations and Governments, and organized academic programs, teaching programs and training courses on complex emergencies and mass casualty management. He was conferred two Honorary Doctorates and other humanistic, government and academic awards in recognition of his contributions. He was awarded a Special Fellowship by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for his proposal to introduce essential surgery as a component of primary health care in developing countries.

Among the more than 300 articles he had published, he redacted the WHO Emergency Health Kit – with supplies to meet the needs of 10,000 people for a period three months, which remains the basis of emergency health assistance in the event of a catastrophe.

Among another 20 books he authored, his “Dictionary of Disaster Medicine and Humanitarian Relief” remains the fundamental reference work and tool in the field. It has been translated into a number of languages and is now in its second, expanded edition. His “Humanitarian Medicine” was the first book to be written on the topic and was published in 2005, followed by a new expanded edition titled “Concepts and Practice of Humanitarian Medicine”, which has been translated into Chinese.

He was Founding President of the WHO Medical Society and the International Association for Humanitarian Medicine, President Emeritus of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, Honorary Chair of Asia-Pacific Conferences on Disaster Medicine, and Founding President of the International Association of Trainers for UN Millennium Development Goals.

He was co-editor of the “Journal of Humanitarian Medicine”, the official journal of the International Association of Humanitarian Medicine (IAHM), and of the “Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters”, the official journal of the Mediterranean Burns Club (MBC), both associations founded in Palermo.

He was a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada and of the Royal Anthropological Institute, and was affiliated with a number of universities.

Professor Gunn promoted interest in the interplay between human rights, humanist social structures, disaster management, global health, essential surgery, and awareness of sustainable development in emerging societies.

Professor Gunn was awarded the honorary doctorate of Palermo University.

He left us with an important lesson:

Poor nations should be respected

Helping them is a duty, not an act of pity

Michele Masellis
Co-editor Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters