

## **ABOUT DR SHARAD P PAUL**

### **Current Positions**

Adjunct Professor, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand  
Senior Lecturer, School of Medicine, University of Queensland, Australia  
Senior Lecturer (Hon.), Faculty of Surgery, University of Auckland  
Fellow, Royal Society of Medicine

**Practicing At:** Skin Surgery Clinic, 271 A Blockhouse Bay Road, Auckland 0600

### **Areas of Specialisation**

Skin cancer—melanoma, basal cell cancer, squamous cell cancer and other skin lesions—  
Diagnosis and surgery, including reconstructive surgery after skin cancer removals. I am  
also available to be consulted on lumps and bumps, other skin conditions and skincare.

### **Description of Specialisation**

I specialise in a wide range of Skin Conditions. I have a special interest in skin cancer  
diagnosis using dermoscopy, skincare and skin cancer surgery and have developed  
several new techniques and methods in the field of skin cancer surgery. My academic  
works have been widely published internationally, and my findings are used  
internationally as a guide for plastic and reconstructive surgery. After completing  
medicine, my residency training was in general and plastic surgery. After completing three  
years of plastic surgical training, I decided to specialise in skin cancer medicine and am  
now considered an international leader in the field. My research interests are in skin lines  
to reduce scarring, sunscreens and sun damage.

### **Qualifications/Memberships**

MB BS, 1988

M Phil 2002

Fellow of the Skin Cancer College of Australasia

Distinguished Fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners

NZ Medical Council Registration No. 20139 (Vocational/Specialist Register: General  
Practice)

### **Specialist Experience in Skin Cancer**

Director of the Skin Surgery Clinic since 1996

Fellow of the Skin Cancer College of Australasia

Senior Lecturer (skin cancer) University of Queensland, Australia since 2004

### **Awards and Distinctions**

Clinical Excellence Award for Skin Award, Waitemata District Health Board 2001

Health Innovation Award 2003

Awarded New Zealand Association's highest medical award, The Chair's Award, 2012

*Ko Awatea* International Excellence Award for Leading Skin Cancer Healthcare on a Global  
Scale, 2015



**Ko Awatea  
International Excellence in  
Health Improvement Awards 2015**

**WINNER**

*Award for*  
**Leading Improvement on a Global Scale**

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**Sharad Paul**  
**Skin Surgery Clinic**

*Dr Sharad Paul's role in improving skin cancer management,  
education and patient-centred care internationally, across  
several countries*

**KO AWATEA**

  
**COUNTIES  
MANUKAU  
HEALTH**



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Vienna, May 26<sup>th</sup> 2015

To whom it may concern

Please accept this letter in support of Dr. Sharad Paul whom I know personally for many years. I am Ao. Professor of Dermatology at the Medical University of Vienna, where I have been given the opportunity to evaluate the credentials of numerous physician-scientists over the years. Dr. Sharad Paul has developed an impressive reputation as a leader in the field of dermatology, dermato-oncology and skin cancer surgery, and is regarded as unique in the field of medicine because he has mastered the ability to manage so many disciplines. He has been singled out to present his work at many critical conferences all over the world attended by leading authorities in the field. I recently invited him to chair the surgical workshops at the World Dermoscopy Congress in Vienna. He is a remarkably multitalented person. He teaches creative writing to disadvantaged children, he was appointed into the National Commission of UNESCO as literacy adviser, and he is the author of several novels. Having read his books and being interested in literature myself I feel competent to say that he has great writing talents. He also developed interest in narrative medicine and aims at establishing such a program. Please let me explain why this effort deserves special attention.

Nearly 400 years lie between Hamlet's lament that "the time is out of joint" and Fukuyama's declaration of "the end of history". Fukuyama's diagnosis pertains to the evolution of past events of mankind as a whole that have come to an end in a political sense. Whether one agrees with this diagnosis or not the crucial point is that there is a narrative that holds the world together. If the history of mankind was just a chaotic sequence of events, preposterous and meaningless, the time would be really out of joint not just literally. Numerous historians, philosophers, sociologists and historians-philosophers-sociologists from Hegel to Derrida, from Nietzsche to Foucault and from Hobbes to Fukuyama, tried to set it right and to correct the dislocation. Medicine as a discipline cares as much about mankind as it cares about individuals. Medical history dissolves into individual stories. Each patient history is a unique narrative. Patients, like mankind, can be out of joint too if the narrative is missing. The famous case histories of Sigmund Freud and the novels and plays of his contemporary physician-literate Arthur Schnitzler pay tribute to the close relationship of narrative medicine

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and illness coping. The times that we call "postmodern" do not care too much about stories. We zap through our lives as we change TV-channels but we rarely watch a movie from the beginning to the end. We are highly connected but we fail to see the common thread behind short messages and headlines. We surf the internet for hours but we never arrive on the last page. Physicians take the personal history but they have no time to relate to personal stories. Our postmodern life keeps us busy but we do not make ends meet. We are, however, addicted to coherence. Nobody knows this better than patients who are seriously ill. Their first question almost always is "why and how?" The next question usually is "how will it end?" Especially when it comes to serious disabling illness or death we urgently need a coherent story, a personal narrative, which in the usual jargon is called "meaning".

We need somebody who creates coherence if we are "out of joint" and if we get stuck for the right word we need somebody to tell our story. We need Dr. Sharad Paul. In the same sense as the world needs historians-philosophers-sociologists for the history of mankind the world needs a physician-philosopher-literate for narrative medicine. Only a distinguished physician such as Dr. Sharad Paul with a sense for "stories" understands the importance of narrative medicine in improving patient-physician communication. He is the Sigmund Freud and Arthur Schnitzler of our times. I applaud everybody who supports him personally and his efforts to establish a program in narrative medicine.

Ao . Univ. Prof. Dr. Harald Kittler

# 'Renaissance man' wins NZMA's highest award

Wednesday, 5 December 2012, 11:05 am  
Press Release: NZMA

The New Zealand Medical Association will today bestow its highest honour, the Chair's Award, on a doctor who is a true all-round achiever.

Auckland's Dr Sharad Paul has been described as a Renaissance man. This year alone, as well as juggling three medical roles, he was also a finalist for the New Zealander of the Year award and his second novel was published.

The Award is presented at the discretion of the NZMA Chair, to an individual or organisation which has made a substantial contribution to the health of New Zealanders

NZMA Chair Dr Paul Ockelford said today's award to Dr Sharad Paul was well deserved.

"His achievements are remarkable and remarkably varied. In addition to his medical roles, his Skin Surgery Clinic offers free skin cancer checks. He also invented a new skin graft technique, and he funds literacy programmes in low decile Auckland schools."

"It's no wonder he was nominated for New Zealander of the Year and reached the finals."

Dr Paul's major clinical interests are sun damage, skin repair, wound healing, management of skin cancers and facial reconstruction following removal of skin cancers.

As well as being director of the Skin Surgery Clinic, he holds the positions of honorary Senior Lecturer in Surgery at the University of Auckland and Senior Lecturer at the University of Queensland School of Medicine.

In 2007 he invented the first new skin graft technique that reduces costs, pain and healing time for patients, and he has presented this new technique at international conferences.

Outside of medicine Dr Paul runs an award winning café and bookstore called the Baci Lounge, in Newmarket. Proceeds are used to fund literacy programmes in low decile Auckland schools, with the aim of helping children to "dream with their eyes wide open." He has also served on the National Commission of UNESCO.

Dr Paul has been described in the media as "one of the most inspiring, intelligent and compassionate men you are likely to meet". TIME magazine, in 2008, called him "Open Heart Surgeon".

Dr Paul did his medical training in Madras, India, and came to New Zealand in 1991. He completed three years of general surgery and two years of plastic surgical training, including work at Hutt and Middlemore Hospitals as well as overseas. Later he also became a Fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners in 1999, and gained a Master of Philosophy in Medical Law and Ethics from the University of Glasgow in 2002. He is also a Fellow of the Skin Cancer College of Australasia.

He is also the published author of two literary fiction novels, Cool Cut (Picador 2007) and To Kill a Snow Dragonfly (4th Estate, Harper Collins 2012). He has completed a non-fiction book on skin to be released internationally in late 2012 by Collins.

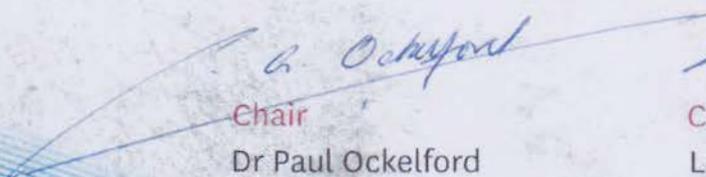


## CHAIR'S AWARD 2012

Presented to:

Dr Sharad Paul

*who has made an outstanding contribution  
to health in New Zealand*

  
Chair

Dr Paul Ockelford

  
CEO

Lesley Clarke



The Royal New Zealand  
College of General Practitioners  
Te Whare Tohu Rata o Aotearoa



This is to certify that on the authority  
of the Board of the College

**Sharad Paul**

was on this day awarded

**DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP**

and shall be entitled to use the designation  
Distinguished Fellow of The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners  
FRNZCGP (Dist)

President

**30 July 2016**

Date