



Patrick Wall Lecture

The Patrick Wall lecture is a New Zealand Pain Society lecture that is a science focused lecture named in honour of Patrick Wall. Patrick Wall was a mentor and friend to some of the early members of NZPS and his family gave consent for an annual lecture to be named for him.

The **International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP)** honors the memory and contributions of **Patrick David Wall**, a distinguished figure in pain science and medicine. Dr. Wall, born in Nottingham, England, on April 5, 1925, made significant advancements in our understanding of pain mechanisms.

Here are some key points about Dr. Patrick Wall:

1. **Gate Control Theory:** In 1965, Dr. Wall, along with Ronald Melzack, introduced the groundbreaking "Pain mechanisms: a new theory" paper, which proposed the famous "**gate control**" theory. This theory revolutionized pain research and remains a fundamental concept in the field.
2. **Academic Journey:** Dr. Wall's academic journey took him across prestigious institutions. He held teaching positions at Yale, the University of Chicago, Harvard, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). His collaboration with influential figures like Warren McCulloch, Jerry Lettvin, and Walter Pitts shaped his research trajectory.
3. **IASP Founding Member:** Dr. Wall was a **founding member** of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). His commitment to advancing pain science led to significant contributions within the organization.
4. **Editor of Pain Journal:** Dr. Wall served as the editor of the journal "**Pain**", a publication that has played a crucial role in disseminating pain-related research and knowledge.
5. **Legacy:** Dr. Wall's work continues to inspire pain researchers and clinicians worldwide. His impact on the field remains profound.

Dr. [Patrick Wall passed away on August 8, 2001, leaving behind a lasting legacy in pain science and a wealth of knowledge that continues to shape our understanding of pain](#)

The **Patrick Wall lecture** serves as a tribute to his remarkable contributions, celebrating his life's work and fostering ongoing dialogue in the field of pain research.