Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0117

Williams, Fannie Eleanor

(1884 - 1963)

Born	18840704, Adelaide South Australia Australia
Died	19630616, Armadale Victoria Australia
Occupation	Bacteriologist, Nurse, Serologist

Summary

Fannie Eleanor Williams (known as Eleanor) was one of the first three staff members of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in 1920. She co-authored or authored more than fifty publications in her career and specialised in research on dysentery, influenza, hydatids and snake venom. She played a key role in the development of the first Australian blood bank. Not only a researcher, she was also responsible for the training of staff (including Sir Macfarlane Burnet) and, later in life, general organisation of WEHI. According to Sir Macfarlane Burnet and Dr Ian Wood, ‘she was the channel through which serological techniques developed in Melbourne’. Miss Williams was awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross on 1 January 1917 for her bacteriological work in the Australian Imperial Force. She was appointed MBE – The Order of the British Empire – Member (Civil) – 13 June 1957, for her work at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

Published resources

Resource Section
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Edited Book
History of Microbiology in Australia, Fenner, Frank, 1990

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Work Rewarded by the Queen, 1957,
http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1300&dat=19570619&id=mk0RAAAAIBAJ&sjid=2ZQDAAAAIBAJ&pg=4073||2552760

Book Section
Fannie Eleanor Williams: Bacteriologist and Serologist, Harris, Kirsty, 2012,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/sti/harris.html

Resource
Where are the Women in Australian science?, Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre, 2003,
http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/wisa/wisa.html

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