

David Kingston: The Medical Consultant From Queensland



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Dr. David Kingston

*Director of the
Virginia Tech Center
for Drug Discovery.*

Blacksburg, Virginia Jun 10, 2022 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - David Kingston is a medical practitioner born and raised in Queensland. You can't be wrong if you called him a Queensland-based medical consultant. Although he did not start his career as a medical consultant, he practices as a consultant. He decided to go into pharmacology as he had always been interested in drug development and pharmacy in general.

He obtained his B. Pharm. and B.Sc. at the University of Queensland. He got registered as a pharmacist and a medical practitioner in 1968 and 1973 respectively. In 1975, he joined Drug Evaluation in the Health Department, Canberra.

A year after, he joined Roche Australia as an Associate Medical Director. He was called to Roche Basle in Switzerland in 1979 and he became International Development Manager in his prime. He moved back to Australia from Switzerland in 1981. Although he had moved to Switzerland on the basis of work, he moved back because of the education of his children. Also, his wife's career instigated their moving back to Australia.

As a very vibrant [medical director at Roche Australia](#), he effectively expanded the staff population and also increased the number of trials. In the early 1980s, catalysed by the spread of HIV/AIDS, activists started campaigning to change the stringent conditions limiting the number of clinical trials in Australia. Before the campaign, the Australian government had to approve of every trial that was carried out within the country, and the fact that nobody wanted to take responsibility made trials very infrequent. Medical practitioners across the country were not motivated or encouraged by this factor. Even with these hard regulations, Dr. Kingston could not be drawn backward. Although he was also affected by

the government conditions, he continued to push forward at Roche Australia. Eventually, approval of clinical trials became a responsibility of the Ethics Committee. It became easier to perform clinical trials in Australia as approval was quicker and less complicated.

David Kingston launched the expansion of Roche trials in Asia, the headquarters being Sydney. Gradually, the staff population rose to over 200 in the Asia Pacific Region, contributing 13% to 21% of all patients in Roche filings for new drugs. Roche became the largest team with the most studies in the Asia Pacific Region.

He retired from Roche and went into consultancy in 2010. As a means of educating others and sharing his knowledge, he also began to lecture at UNSQW.

On the work front, Dr. Kingston is involved in the refinancing of Invictus Operations and separating it from VTI. Invictus has interesting products for NAFLD (non-alcoholic fatty liver disease) which progresses to NASH (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis) and can progress to cirrhosis and hepatic cancer. NASH is rapidly increasing because it is related to overweight and obesity. There is no approved treatment yet for NASH. He is also working on a very interesting treatment for a very topical disease. He also mentioned that he cannot specify or spell out the details of the research as the owner of the research work does not want to make it public yet.

Due to his expertise and knowledge, he forged ahead in his consultancy career. He also got employed by some Biotech companies in Australia. Additionally, he has been organising studies of a new treatment for pancreatic cancer as pancreatic adenocarcinoma is the second or third most common cause of cancer in Australia. Although it is treatable, the available treatments are not so effective. In America, it is the second most common cause of death. Also, it is the second or third cause of cancer in Australia.

After a while, he and his wife decided to move to Western Australia in Albany to be closer to their grandson who has an autism disorder and is severely affected. As someone in the medical field who has the experience, he decided that being closer to his grandson would help him care for him more. They decided to get a house in the suburbs of Mira Mar. In their new neighborhood, however, there have been issues with landslides. A Water Corporation truck burst up the hill from their house in July. This released large amounts of water for several hours. The hill originally has a base of granite which is further covered with clay and sand. When the water tore up the hill, the clay and sand slid down the granite base. Together with their house, about two other houses situated in the path of the water were also damaged. As a matter of fact, it is even a bigger problem for those houses that are located further down the hill. Since that time (in July), large chunks of rock, sand, and clay that have slid down the hill have piled up in the backyard of Dr. Kingston and his family. The house has become a ticking time bomb as the dangers of staying there are great. When the winter rains come, it is certain that the house would be destroyed, for the most part. They have been making plans to move out of the house in order to avoid any more disasters.

So his son stepped in to better the situation. As a way of garnering support and enhancing publicity, Dr. Kingston's son has started a campaign, 'Save Albany Homes' on Facebook and other platforms due to the landslide issues there. Suing the water corporation is nearly impossible as the government makes it very difficult to sue its statutory authorities. Also, Water Corp, the organization responsible for this problem is not helping. They claim the rain caused the problem. In the same vein, insurance cannot be helpful in financing a repair. This is because insurance policies do not cover landslides. Landslides are

not included in insurance policies. Aside from the stress of moving from one place to another, the issue also has a heavy financial cost. There is no gainsaying that the cost of buying a house, regardless of the size, is not little. Now that they have to move, they have no option but to undertake another series of expenses.

When it comes to pharmacology in Australia, [Dr. Kingston's](#) name is an unforgettable one. From being a pharmacologist and medical practitioner, he became a private medical consultant. When he retired from Roche, he had also become a lecturer.

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