Don Webb joined SICOT in 1977 and was SICOT Australian National Delegate from 1984 to 1993 and subsequently re-elected from 1996 to 2000 when he was replaced by Brett Courtenay. Don was First Vice President at the time of the wonderful 1999 Sydney Congress organised by Neal Thomson. At the General Assembly in San Diego in 2002 he was made a Distinguished Member of SICOT for his outstanding contribution to the international Society.

He qualified as a doctor in Melbourne in 1956 and did his residency at the Royal Perth Hospital. Between 1961 and 1970 he worked in General Surgery then travelled to England where he completed a fellowship at the Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Hospital, Oswestry. He returned to Australia by sea as ship’s surgeon with Alison, his future wife, as nurse. He was appointed Visiting Surgeon to Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and Orthopaedic Consultant to the Fremantle Hospital where he later became Head of Department.

In 1959 he began a long association with St John Ambulance later becoming Commandery Lieutenant of the Order of St John in 1992 and finally a Knight of St John in 1995. In 1996 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his services to Orthopaedic Surgery and St John Ambulance.

He was elected President of the Australian Orthopaedic Association in 1988 and chaired the AOA Continuing Education Committee from 1986-90. He was an examiner for the Royal Australian College of Surgeons from 1984-90.

I met Don when I was UK National Delegate in 1991 and we became firm friends enjoying many politically incorrect jokes together. Later, when I became Secretary General, Don became a strong ally who could always be relied upon to inject a little common sense into any debate. He is survived by his wife Alison, their children and grandchildren.

Anthony J. Hall