

Barbara Farnsworth-Heslop



1938-1942

Barbara Farnsworth-Heslop (CBE, MD, FRCPath, FRACS, FRSNZ) grew up with a large scholarly library at home, and was always encouraged to aspire to do whatever she wanted –regardless of the societal expectations of women at the time.

Looking back at her life at Medical School, Barbara recalls her ambitions to become a career woman were different to the then current view which “*didn’t really expect very much of medical women after graduation.*” However, this didn’t discourage Barbara. She was the first medically-qualified woman to become a professor of surgery at Otago Medical School.

Although Barbara trained as a pathologist, she spent most of her career engaged in research directed at improving the outcome of transplantation, as well as teaching medical trainees. The Barbara Heslop Memorial fund has been set up at Otago University to support a scholarship for research students.

“Find something you are passionate about for your career and do that while maintaining work-life balance.”

