

A message from Professor Edwina Cornish, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

On 1 January 2010 Professor Nick Birrell, Professorial Fellow and Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Science and Wealth Creation, will be moving to an adjunct role at Monash University to return to his venture capital activities.

In July 2006, Professor Nick Birrell was appointed to a part time role at Monash to establish the Asia Pacific Centre for Science and Wealth Creation. The objective was to develop a Centre that would bring the worlds of science and business closer together. In 2007, working with the Faculties of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Law and Business and Economics, the Centre launched its flagship education program, the Master of Business (Science & Technology). This unique program accepts students with a degree in science or technology and teaches them business skills, with particular emphasis on the business of science. A special component of the program is a Commercialisation Project in which the students work in teams to develop a commercialisation plan for real Monash scientific research.

At the end of this year, the MBus program will have taught more than 70 students and completed 38 Commercialisation Projects covering a diverse range of topics such as stem cell therapies, robotic guided surgery, fuel cells and vaccine manufacturing. Graduates from the program have entered an equally diverse range of relevant jobs from investment banking in Melbourne to project management in a biotech company in Malaysia.

Professor Michael Vitale, who joined the Centre as Director of Commercialisation in late in 2006 and has been involved in all aspects of its operation since, will take over as Director. Professor Birrell will remain associated with the Centre as an adjunct Professor.

I am also pleased to announce that Dr Ian Cooke will be joining the Centre in November on a part time basis as a Professorial Fellow. Professor Cooke was most recently CEO of the biotechnology company CNSBio and has previously held academic positions at the Burnet Institute and Deakin University. Professor Cooke also holds the position of CEO of the distinguished scientific consultancy Foursight Associates.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Professor Birrell all the very best in his future endeavours and thank him for his outstanding contribution to the portfolio and the greater university. I am also delighted that Nick will continue to be involved in the work of the Centre

Professor Edwina Cornish
Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)