

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: MONDAY 5 JULY 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



New Vice-Chancellor for the University of Tasmania

The University of Tasmania's Deputy Chancellor, Mrs Yvonne Rundle, has announced that Professor Peter Rathjen will be the new Vice-Chancellor of UTAS from 28 March 2011.

The appointment of Professor Rathjen, who is the current Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Melbourne, follows an extensive search both nationally and internationally.

"Professor Rathjen is an exciting appointment for UTAS and the University Council is very pleased to have been able to appoint someone of his calibre to take over from Professor Daryl Le Grew. We are excited to welcome him to Tasmania," she said.

The appointment is for an initial term of five years.

"Professor Rathjen has a strong background in the university sector and a sharp understanding of the issues impacting on the sector.

Prior to his current position at the University of Melbourne, Professor Rathjen was Dean of Science at that university and prior to that he was Foundation Executive Dean, Faculty of Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

Professor Rathjen has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of Adelaide and a DPhil in Biochemistry from Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

Professor Rathjen is an Honorary Visiting Professor at the University of Adelaide, is the Patron of the Australian Institute of Political Science: Tall Poppies Campaign, and was the winner of the inaugural Premier's Science Excellence Award in the category of Research Leadership in 2005.

He is also an external member of the Hanson Centre for Cancer Research and a selected participant in the Australian Academy of Science project: Video Histories of Australian Scientists in 2001.

Professor Rathjen has, with his wife Joy, established an internationally recognised research program into stem cell biology and stem cell therapies.

Their research focuses on understanding the growth and differentiation of stem cells within the mammalian embryo and the application of this knowledge to human disease.

Professor Rathjen said he is excited to accept the appointment.

“It is a great honour to be selected as the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania and I am keen to continue the fantastic work being undertaken by Tasmania’s university,” he said.

“My wife Joy and I are regular visitors to Tasmania and on a personal basis I look forward to moving to Tasmania.

“Also I look forward to working with staff, students and the wider community as the University of Tasmania continues to grow and prosper as one of Australia’s truly great universities.”

Mrs Rundle said she would again like to acknowledge the excellent contribution of Professor Le Grew during his term as Vice-Chancellor, as a result of which the University has achieved a very strong position nationally and internationally. Professor Le Grew’s term finishes at the end of this year.

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