

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Leading neuroscientist appointed Provost

University of Tasmania today announced the appointment of outstanding academic researcher and leader, Professor Mike Calford, to the key position of Provost.

Professor Calford, an accomplished neuroscientist, has served in a host of senior roles at the University of Wollongong and University of Newcastle, building upon a distinguished career as a researcher.

In March, he will take up the Provost position, based in Launceston, where he spent some of his formative years.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the appointment aligned with the University's direction in several important ways.

"As the senior academic leader in the University, the appointment of the Provost is a crucial one in the life of the institution," he said

"We are pursuing an agenda of excellence in research and teaching, positioning our University to be among the very best in the world.

"Welcoming an academic of Professor Calford's calibre to the Provost's role very much aligns with those ambitions.

"We also see the future of the University, indeed, the future of Tasmania, as inextricably linked with the development of quality health services in the State, and that requires outstanding research and teaching in the field.

"Professor Calford brings a wealth of experience and vision to further our ambitions and efforts in this space, which are already world-class in terms of both standard and scope. He is a dynamic academic leader whose talents for research, teaching and strategic planning will clearly benefit UTAS."

Professor Calford said he was attracted to both the role of Provost and to UTAS as an institution.

"The University of Tasmania is an incredibly exciting place in terms of the Australian higher education sector," Professor Calford said. "It is pursuing a strategy which is both completely inspired and completely attainable."

The Provost is the University's chief academic officer, with oversight of all faculties and centres. The position is central to academic staffing strategies, with a view to enhanced teaching and research outcomes.

Professor Calford graduated with First Class Honours in Psychology from Monash University and subsequently completed his PhD with the Department of Physiology at Monash.

He has received numerous prestigious research fellowships and awards, including the *Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship*, the NHMRC *Senior Research Fellowship*; the Australian Society for Medical Research's inaugural *Australian Medical Research Award* and the NHMRC *Principal Research Fellowship*.

During his time with the University of Newcastle he served in several senior leadership roles including Head of School (Biomedical Sciences), Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Pro Vice-Chancellor (Health) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

He left University of Newcastle to become Executive Director of the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute, along with Pro Vice-Chancellor (Health and Medical Research) and Professor of Medical Science at the University of Wollongong.

As Pro Vice-Chancellor (Health) at University of Newcastle, Professor Calford helped secure \$35 million toward the construction of the Hunter Medical Research Institute's headquarters.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), he led the establishment of the flagship research centre, the Newcastle Institute for Energy and Resources, and helped secure \$30 million in Education Infrastructure Funding to help develop the site for the institute.

Professor Calford replaces retiring Provost Professor David Rich, who will maintain a strong connection with the University as Chair of the University's 125th anniversary celebrations.

Information released by:

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