

Professor John Patrick Hearn B.Sc., M.Sc., PhD

John Hearn is Vice President (International) and Professor of Physiology at the University of Sydney. He is the Chief Executive of the Worldwide Universities Network.

He was Vice President (Research) at the Australian National University (2001-4) and Director, Research School of Biological Sciences (1998-2001). He is a reproductive and developmental physiologist with over 180 refereed research publications and six edited books in human and animal fertility, embryo implantation, stem cell biology and biotechnology.

His current research is in the international development of higher education and research, and the impact of stem cell science on society. He teaches first year human biology and advanced physiology.

He holds the Scientific Medal of the Zoological Society of London, the Osman-Hill Medal of the Primate Society of Great Britain and the Australian Centenary Medal “for outstanding service to science and to the Australian Government as a scientific adviser”

Career. Awarded his PhD from the Australian National University in 1973 in the developmental physiology of marsupials, he served as a researcher, educator and director of national and international programs, for 6-7 years each, at the Universities of Edinburgh, London UCL, Wisconsin and the ANU; and as a Senior Scientific Adviser to the World Health Organisation and the World Wildlife Fund.

In conjunction with these appointments, he was Director of Science of the Zoological Society of London 1980-87, Deputy Secretary of the Agricultural and Food Research Council of the UK 1987-90 and Director of the Wisconsin National Primate Research Centre 1990-96.

He was elected President of the International Primatological Society (1984-8) and of the Society for Reproductive Biology (2001-4). A committed international citizen, he has directed research and institutional development programs in Kenya, Brazil, China, Thailand and India. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Professional Service. Currently a Board member of the OECD Bio-economy 2030 program (Paris); the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation; and the Sydney Confucius Institute (Chairman); he was Chairman of the WHO Asia-Pacific Panel in reproductive health research and a member of the Science and Technology Group, Geneva (1998-2006); Chairman of the Australian Biotechnology Advisory Council to Federal Government (2002-5); and the Scientific Adviser to the Australian House of Representatives Committee on cloning and stem cell research (1999-2001).

Other service includes Chairman of the ARC Biological Sciences and Biotechnology Committee; ANUTECH; and the Australia-Europe Centre. He was co-founder of the Australian Centre for Intellectual Property and the Greenhouse Accounting Cooperative Research Centre, and served as a member of MRC(UK) and NIH(USA) Strategic Planning groups. A keen sportsman, his clubs include Bronte Surf and Life Saving Club, Randwick Rugby Football Club and the Athenaeum (London). He and Margaret (nee McNair) have a daughter, four sons and four grandchildren.