

# The Menzies Foundation Lectures

In 2001, the Menzies Foundation sponsored three Menzies Foundation Lectures, all given by eminent international scientists.

## How Biochemistry can Transform the Economy Professor Sir Philip Cohen, FRS, University of Dundee



*Professor Sir Philip Cohen*

The first Menzies Foundation Lecture on 24 April, 2001 was held in conjunction with the 11th International Conference on Second Messengers and Phosphoproteins.

Sir Philip Cohen is Professor of Biochemistry, University of Dundee. In 1984 he became one of the eighteen Royal Society Research Professors, the

position that he holds today. He is also Director of the Medical Research Council Protein Phosphorylation Unit and Director of the Wellcome Trust Building at the University of Dundee. Professor Cohen has received numerous international awards and honours for his work on protein phosphorylation in which he is a world leader and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of London and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was knighted in the Queen's 1998 Birthday Honours List for his service to science. Professor Cohen has been an editor for many scientific journals and his own research is highly cited.

## Science and Ethics in the 21st Century

Professor Lord Winston, Imperial College School of Medicine, London



*Lord Winston autographs a book for Professor John Coghlan following the Menzies Foundation Lecture.*

The second Menzies Foundation Lecture was held in conjunction with ScienceNOW! on 22 August, 2001. The lecture entitled "*Science and Ethics in the 21st Century*" was given by Professor Lord Robert Winston and followed by panel and audience discussion. Lord Winston is Professor of Fertility Studies at the Imperial College School of Medicine in London. He has researched into various aspects of human reproduction and founded the first NHS In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) Programme. He is currently developing techniques to make IVF treatment more affordable and accessible. Created a Life Peer in 1995, he comments on a wide range of medical, ethical and scientific issues in Parliament, scientific journals and the media.

## Living with Spinal Cord Injuries

Professor Christopher Mathias, Institute of Neurology, University College, London



*Menzies Foundation Lecturer, Professor Christopher Mathias and Professor Elspeth McLachlan, Co-Director, Spinal Injuries Research Institute, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute.*

The third Menzies Foundation Lecture for 2001 was held in Sydney on 3 September, 2001 in conjunction with the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute's conference on "Spinal Cord Injury – Mechanisms of Spinal Autonomic Reflexes and their Plasticity".

The public lecture was entitled "Living with Spinal Cord Injuries". Professor Mathias is a Professor of Neurovascular

Medicine and an internationally renowned neurologist. His research is on the role of the autonomic nervous system in health and disease with the main focus on neural and neurohormonal control of the circulation in man. Professor Mathias has a special interest in patients with cardiovascular autonomic disorders (in particular postural hypotension), a variety of neurological disorders (such as Parkinson's disease) and medical disorders involving the autonomic nervous system (diabetes mellitus and amyloidosis). He has co-edited, with Sir Roger Bannister, the 3rd edition of "Autonomic Failure: A Textbook of Clinical Disorders of the Autonomic Nervous System".

# The Menzies Oration on Higher Education

Sir Robert Menzies considered that his contribution to the development of Universities might prove to be amongst the most lasting of his achievements for Australia. In recognition of this vision and in order to strengthen the role of higher education in Australia, the University of Melbourne and the Foundation established in 1991 the Sir Robert Menzies Oration on Higher Education.

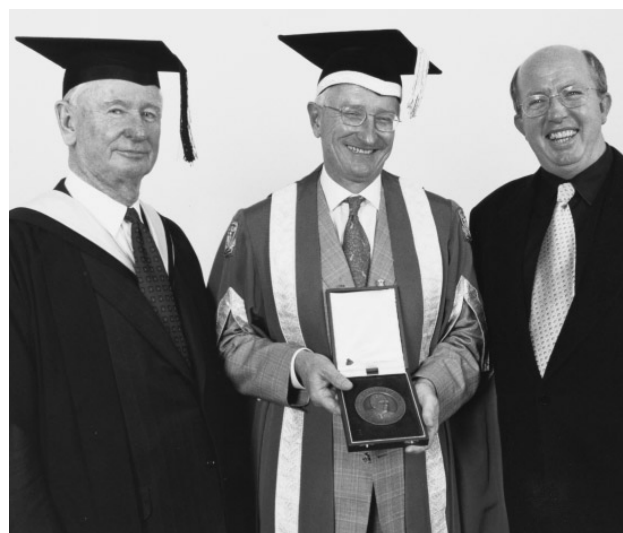
The theme for the Oration is higher education policy and practice in Australia both in view of its national importance and also because of Sir Robert's attachment to both the extension of higher education and the wise development of it. The intention is for each Oration to be a contribution to intellectual debate in Australia. Publication of each Oration is also an objective.

Previous Menzies Orators have been:

- 1991 Professor David Penington  
*The University of Melbourne*
- 1992 Professor Emeritus Peter Karmel  
*Australian National University*
- 1993 Professor Henry Rosovsky  
*Harvard University*
- 1995 Professor Brian Wilson  
*The University of Queensland*
- 1996 Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland  
*The University of Edinburgh*
- 1997 Professor Wang Gungwu  
*The National University of Singapore*
- 1998 Lord Dearing  
*The University of Nottingham*
- 1999 Sir Guy Green  
*Governor of Tasmania*
- 2000 Professor Sir Alec Broers  
*University of Cambridge*

The Oration is presented annually at the University of Melbourne in conjunction with a higher degree graduation ceremony. The choice of this University as the venue for the Oration recognises the eminent role played by Sir Robert as its Chancellor from 1967 to 1972 and a Menzies Foundation medal, specially struck by the Royal Australian Mint, is presented to each Orator.

The tenth Oration entitled "The Research-led University – Reflections from New Zealand" was delivered by Dr John Hood, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Auckland, on 11 October, 2001. Dr Hood emphasised the complexities of universities today. Their international standing, he stated, requires numerous and diverse responses to the demands their local and international communities are making of them. The quality of these responses has major implications for that standing and for national competitiveness.



The Orator for 2001, Dr John Hood, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Auckland, is pictured with the Hon Sir Daryl Dawson, Chairman of the Menzies Foundation (left) and Mr Alex Menzies, Grandson of Sir Robert Menzies (right).

The Foundation was represented by its Chairman, The Hon Sir Daryl Dawson and by Mr Alex Menzies, Grandson of Sir Robert, who presented the Menzies Foundation Medal to Dr Hood.