

CITATION – Professor Christopher Parish, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU College of Medicine, Biology & Environment

The Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Contribution to the University is awarded for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree.

Professor Chris Parish has recently stepped down as Director of the John Curtin School of Medical Research, having served in this role for two years over a period in which the University carried out a major review of its Health and Medical research, with a view to a significant repositioning and rejuvenation of its activities in this area.

Throughout his tenure as Director of the John Curtin School Professor Parish was a steadying influence and had, as well, a number of significant achievements to his credit. These include the establishment of both the Centenary Chair for Cancer Research and the Judith Whitworth Research Fellowship for women, and the introduction of a formal grant review process, elements of which have now been adopted across the College of Medicine, Biology and Environment more broadly.

Professor Parish's term as Director came after some 35 years at the John Curtin School, over which period he made many fundamental discoveries in the field of immunology, as well as being a leading light, well ahead of his time, in the field of 'translational medicine'. His research findings underpin several Australian biotechnology companies, including Progen Pharmaceuticals and Lipotek. In 2005 Professor Parish was awarded the Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Medal for Excellence in Biomedical Research in recognition of his scientific achievements. In 2011 he was elected a Fellow of The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and he is the 2014 Canberra Citizen of the Year. It is fitting that the University in which Professor Parish has carried out his life's work, and to which he has contributed so much, should honour him with the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Contribution to the University.