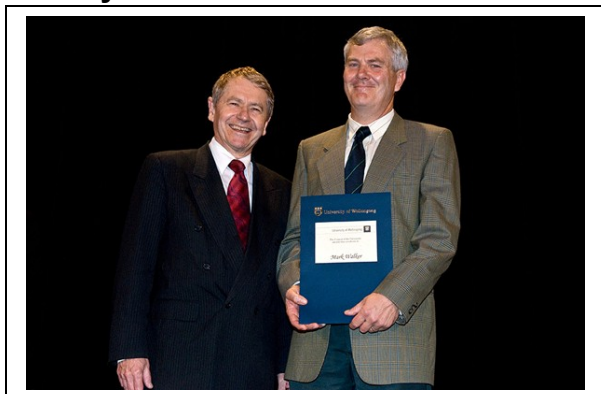


# VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE 2009

Acknowledging outstanding contributions to research by individuals or teams;

## Research Excellence Award for Senior Researchers

**Professor Mark Walker**  
**Faculty of Science**



Internationally recognised microbiologist Professor Mark Walker is Director of the Centre for Medical Biosciences. Recently, his research group made a major discovery which described how group A streptococci can transform into a strain that aggressively penetrates deep within tissues to become life-threatening. This groundbreaking work was published in Nature Medicine.

Over the last five years, Mark has been awarded more than 13 million dollars of research funding, has supervised over 50 research students, and has published more than 30 papers in international, peer-reviewed journals. He was awarded a highly competitive Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship in 2005, and was a finalist in the Eureka Price Peoples Choice award in 2008.

Mark lends his expertise widely: serving on the grant review panel for the National Health and Medical Research Council, taking a lead role in organising the Lancefield International Symposium on Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases, and advising a number of other universities in their preparation for University quality assessment.

Prof. Walker is one of the most successful researchers at the University of Wollongong, and makes a substantial contribution to our international reputation as a research intensive institution.

## **Research Excellence Award for Emerging Researchers**

**Dr Simon Moulton**  
**Faculty of Science**



This Award recognises Simon Moulton's strong research track record, both nationally and internationally, as well as his leadership role in the Bionics Program within the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute (IPRI) and the ARC Centre for Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES).

The quality of his research is demonstrated through numerous publications in high impact journals and successful grant funding including ARC Discovery Grants totalling \$2.1 million for 2008/9 in collaboration with St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. In 2008 Simon was awarded the prestigious ARC Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship.

Simon demonstrates all of the essential ingredients of a top flight researcher – the ability to quickly grasp multidimensional challenges; the self discipline to ensure complex tasks are completed; the ability of engender enthusiasm in other research team members; and a very good sense of humour.

His colleagues speak of this genuine enthusiasm and readiness to participate in community outreach programs, and hosting visits to IPRI/ACES to foster interest in nanotechnology and science at the grass roots level.

Simon is well respected both for this research and leadership abilities, serving as an excellent mentor for younger researchers.

## Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership Award

**Professor Stephen Pyne**  
**Faculty of Science**  
**(Partner Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd)**



Prof. Stephen Pyne is presented with this award for the project titled “New Pharmaceutical Drug Discovery”, involving the nominating partner Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd (JJR) represented by Dr Wayne Gerlach.

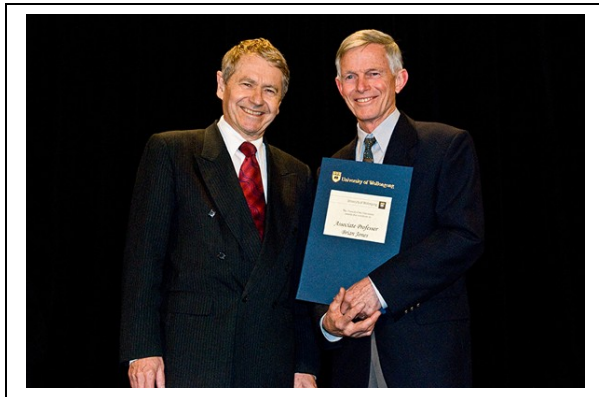
Stephen worked in collaboration with JJR for more than 20 years.

In 2004, funding of over \$1 million per annum was achieved resulting in the building of a new laboratory and offices to support the expanded project. The ongoing funding has supported one to six PhD scholarships and has resulted in two patents being filed and 21 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Testament of the strength of the relationship, despite JJR’s announcement in December 2008 to cease operations in Australia, they key individuals within the company maintain a strong collaborating relationship with Prof. Pyne and are seeking start-up funding to continue the research program.

## Excellence in Research Supervision Award

### **Associate Professor Brian Jones Faculty of Science**



Associate Professor Brian Jones has been in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences since 1974 and has been the principal or co-supervisor of 41 graduated higher degree research students and 90 Honours research projects. He has shown a long-standing commitment to support and guide his research students.

Brian has always been available for impromptu meetings with this honours and post-graduate students both within and outside office hours. He makes his students feel that their work contributes to the fields of sedimentological and environmental research in general as well as contributing to the national development of their home countries.

Several past students are now in very senior positions such as director of a national Geological Survey or head of exploration in major mining and petroleum companies.

Brian inspires his students to do their best work through his own example and through his encouragement and support. Their nomination of Brian for this award was one way of expressing their appreciation.