

## Terry Clout

Thank you Vice Chancellor. I also, would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and pay my respects to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, their Elders past and present.

Welcome - so many distinguished guests, ladies, gentlemen and friends. Bob Farnsworth, Director of Surgery at Prince of Wales. Peter Gonski, Geriatrician. And welcome to our speakers: James Isbister; David de Carle; Clem Boughton; Greg Cranney; Kerry-Anne Rye; Hugh Wolfenden; Daniel Friedman; Nigel Jepson; Shane Thomas; Roger Allan; Jenny Namkoong; Peter Burger; Robyn Ward; Bette Liu; Glenn Marshall; Nadine Kasparian; Michelle Farrar; Maria Craig; and Adam Jaffe. What a list! Indeed a testament to today's celebration.

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, to this, the Second Annual Health-Science Alliance Symposium. Our district is proud of our world class Randwick Hospitals Campus incorporating Prince of Wales, The Royal Hospital For Women, and Sydney Children's Hospital. We are proud of our strong history. And we are very proud of our world-class Health-Science Alliance which represents the spirit of collaboration that will drive us forward to the future and forefront of patient care.

Today, we reflect on the beginnings of this alliance, half a century ago, when we began training young doctors here. Of everyone here, I am one of the least qualified to talk about the history, however I have been here since 2007.

Today, the Randwick site is one of the largest teaching hospital complexes in Australia, with three public hospitals; a private hospital; three Medical Research Institutes; Chairs of Medicine in Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Psychiatry, Paediatrics, Feto-Maternal Medicine, and others; three Chairs of Nursing; and one of the nation's leading research and teaching universities.

Since 2009, this complex has been known as the Health-Science Alliance.

As well as its central teaching role, it attracts more than \$50 million a year in external research funding.

Today – while considering our future - we reflect on our past – our rich history - our foundations - our journey.

On Australia Day of 1961, The Daily Telegraph's Zelig McLeod ran a story under the headline "New Medical School gets 20 scholarships". She referenced her interview with foundation Professor R.B. Blacket, and wrote:

*"A.N. Whitehead, famous English mathematician and philosopher, once defined a university as a place for the mutual contemplation of higher learning by students and professors together. The new medical school authorities are determined to keep to this ideal."*

And so they did, and so they continue to today. 50 years down the track - and we can look back and say that Professor Blacket's vision has been seen.

The Prince of Wales Clinical School opened in 1963 to provide practical ward experience for pioneering students like the young James Isbister, now Professor; Chair of the Human Research and Ethics Committee for SESLHD at Prince of Wales Hospital; and Conjoint Professor of Medicine at UNSW; and Associate Professor David de Carle - presiding member of the university's Medical faculty.

Now, I'll admit I am a history buff.

And I understand what an honour it has been for some of my colleagues to have spent time with you both as you've pored through the historic archives – some of which you will see displayed here today. Although growth here has been spectacular over the past 50 years, it has not changed the character that the first students remember from half a century ago.

Indeed, it is from that character that spectacular growth has been possible. And it is what will drive our future. It was still early days when Professor – and my friend - Terry Campbell trained in these hospitals. He watched them grow to form one of the largest and best Clinical Training Campuses in Australia. I have observed my friend over the years, and I understand how this fills him with pride. For Terry and for many of you here, today marks a celebration of your alma mater, your foundations. Terry returned to serve as a Senior Faculty member - Associate Dean for Research - and since 2007 - Deputy Dean of Medicine. At both the beginning, and at the culmination of his career in Medicine and Medical Research, this Randwick campus has been absolutely central. Terry played an integral role in establishing the Health-Science Alliance. He should be commended.

There is no doubt our hospitals would not be what they are today, without the alliance, that today, we celebrate. Looking towards the future, the alliance will drive and underpin the fortunes of the next generation...Not only of doctors, nurses, allied health staff, and Medical Scientists, working to improve healthcare for all, but most importantly, for the patients we treat.

Professor Robyn Ward, Clinical Associate Dean of Medicine at the university, and Director of Cancer Services at Prince of Wales Hospital, has likened today's celebrations to a 50-year marriage celebration. We know that whatever arises in a marriage, both parties won't necessarily always agree! But a commitment to working together to find a solution – a solution for the good of the whole – is the key – and it certainly has been demonstrated in the marriage we celebrate today. This golden anniversary marks half-a-century of working together to find solutions. A half-century commitment by health care professionals, academics, scientists, and researchers, to the community. The community served by Prince of Wales, The Royal Women's and Sydney Children's Hospitals. Five decades of our people delivering health care to the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It is hard to even imagine the sheer number, let alone the impact had on the community's health and wellbeing, of the medical professionals who have trained and worked here. Indeed the Randwick Hospitals progeny have been scattered all over Australia and the world – ensuring their impact reaches well beyond the environs of Randwick.

Growing for 50 years is testimony to the fact that these hospitals have played a major role in improving health outcomes. It's pretty clear to me today that we have most certainly achieved improved longevity simply by association! Like many hospitals, Prince of Wales has moved from a model of providing predominantly inpatient care, to outpatient, and outreach care. Nurses visit patients in their homes to deliver complex medicines and care. This was unimaginable 50 years ago. How far we have come.

The Randwick campus is now at the forefront of treating the major health challenges of our time - mental health, cancer, cardiovascular and neurological conditions. What a time to reflect on the hard work, dedication and achievements of our predecessors.

And to consider the future - continuing the integration of health care services, teaching and research. The three pillars.

It is interesting listening to the ideas of our current students – the new guard if you will. In preparation for this celebration, current President of the University's Medical Society, Jenny Namkoong, has shared her vision for the future. It is for a strong, unified body of medical professionals, striving and leading the way in delivering the best healthcare for our local and international community... For the best medical leaders to be grown at the university in partnership with our hospitals, these hospitals. One point that Jenny made that stood out was her passion for increasing connections between current and former students. I believe that today is a great step forward to achieving that. In Jenny's words - this celebration is a message to all students to see how the past influences our present identity, and how the future generates our purpose.

In closing, I'd like to touch on some of the astounding medical breakthroughs achieved over the past 50 years at this campus. Breakthroughs that continue to shape the face of patient care here and around the world. Breakthroughs that drive us towards the future.

I must make mention of Warren Kidson. Warren's breakthrough research revolutionised the treatment of diabetes around the world. He was appointed as a visiting endocrinologist at Prince of Wales more than 40 years ago, and is recently retired, but not from practice. In 1973, along with Dr John Casey, he developed low-dose insulin infusion as a revolutionary treatment of diabetic ketoacidosis, reversing it over six to eight hours with 15 to 20 units of insulin. Up to that point in time, patients with diabetic ketoacidosis were treated over several days, with between 300 and several thousand units of insulin, before recovery over several days. By the end of 1974, low-dose insulin infusion had become the treatment of choice for diabetic ketoacidosis throughout the world, and remains so today. This wasn't his only achievement.

Today you will hear from Nigel Jepson.

His bioabsorbable stent has been described as the Holy Grail of stent technology. Right here, right now, we are using the technology at Prince of Wales as part of an international collaborative trial - the only New South Wales site - and only one of a handful in Australasia - confirming device efficacy and safety. Consistent with global results, our experience, having treated patients with this new technology, is highly exciting and very encouraging. It is expected the bioabsorbable stent scaffold will become the default tool – globally - for the key-hole approach to treating blocked heart arteries. At Prince of Wales, we now have one of the greatest global experiences with this therapy clinically - and Nigel has a number of international presentations coming up detailing our results and experience. Nigel – well done.

As I pass you over to Professor James Isbister who will reflect on what things were actually like here 50 years ago, it is important to focus ourselves on our future – our mission: To build a multidisciplinary team to provide the best possible prevention and healthcare to our patients. To focus our health and medical research efforts on excellence and on rapid translation of discovery into the clinical setting. To identify, develop and action synergies between our various activities, at the same time avoiding inefficiencies and maximising cooperation. To provide our clinical and non-clinical staff with the best educational facilities available in order both to support existing staff and to assist us in recruiting, and retaining, the best possible new staff. To everyone who has contributed to our past. To those who have laid the strong foundations of our future and to those of you who will take us there... Thank you... Oh, and Happy Birthday!