



BOND UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice Chancellor and President
MEMORANDUM

TO: All Staff
SUBJECT: Vale Professor Chris Del Mar AM

Dear all,

It is with great sadness that I send news of the passing of Professor Chris Del Mar. Chris passed away in hospital on the weekend.

As many of you know, Chris was severely injured in a surfing accident in February 2019. Through some extraordinary determination and the loving support of family and friends, Chris recovered sufficiently to return to work.

Chris was a remarkable inspiration to his colleagues as a valued contributor to both research and teaching. His professionalism, attention to detail, mentoring of junior colleagues, and ever-inquisitive passion to search for answers to global health challenges are hallmarks, together with his sense of humour and infectious esprit de corps.

Chris came to the University in 2004 as Dean of Health Sciences and Medicine and led the establishment of Bond's medical program - with the first cohort of 72 students commencing in 2005. He was also the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) from 2005-2010 before moving into a research-focussed role as Professor of Public Health.

Professor Del Mar had an exceptional academic and clinical career, and his research had a global impact.

Chris graduated in medicine from the University of Cambridge in 1976. He subsequently moved to Mackay as a full-time GP, becoming a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) in 1980. But his research inclinations led him to move into academia, becoming Professor and Head of the Discipline of General Practice at the University of Queensland 1994-2004, before taking up his position at Bond.

Professor Del Mar was a prolific author and an international leader in research on respiratory tract infections, on the emerging problem of antibiotic resistance, and on shared decision making in health care. At Bond this research was supported by two successive Centres for Research Excellence (CREMARA and CREMARC) funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. Internationally, Chris had a range of roles but perhaps most importantly was the founding Coordinating Editor of the Cochrane Collaboration's Acute Respiratory Infections Review Group.

Professor Del Mar's contributions to Australian general practice were recognised in 2008 when he was honoured with the RACGP's highest award, the Rose-Hunt Medal. Further, the Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care awarded Chris the Bridges-Webb Medal in 2014. In 2021 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to tertiary education, to health and medical research, and to professional bodies, which the Governor of Queensland Dr Jeanette Young presented at his home late last year.

He will be deeply missed by his many former students, colleagues, and many friends. Our sincerest thoughts and condolences are with Chris's wife, Professor Tammy Hoffmann and their family.

I know that many in the University community will want to reach out to Tammy. However, at this time, the family has requested time and space to grieve while they say farewell at a private funeral. The University is in contact with Tammy and there are plans for an opportunity to celebrate, acknowledge and honour Chris's life, career and contribution at a memorial service in the coming weeks.

28 February 2022