

Dr. Simon Malpas

Title: Commercialising research; problems, pitfalls and potential

Summary: Technology commercialisation is the hot-topic in academia as Universities and Governments around the world attempt to show how our research endeavours leads to new jobs, taxes paid and a wealthier economy. This all sounds great but in general completing a PhD, writing papers, supervising students and getting grants often doesn't leave much time for commercialisation. Indeed one can legitimately ask; why bother, am I cut out for this, where do I go for help and finally will I get rich?

Simon has been involved in three medtech companies and is currently Chair of the Board of Directors for Millar Inc, a US based medical device company and Kaha Sciences Ltd a NZ life sciences company. He freely admits that he has made many many mistakes with regard to the commercialisation of research. One of his aims is to help others to avoid the same mistakes. Simon is also a program director for large scale research funding at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute which is focused on the sensing of pressure for medical applications. This presentation therefore will draw on the pitfalls and possibilities of trying to commercialise research.