



Professor S Bruce Dowton

MB BS MD FACMG FRACP FAICD

Professor S Bruce Dowton has served as the Vice-Chancellor and President of Macquarie University since September 2012. He is a paediatrician, clinical geneticist, molecular biologist, researcher and academic, and has served as a senior medical executive at a range of universities, healthcare institutions and consulting organisations. Most notably, he served as a paediatrician at the Massachusetts General Hospital for Children, and as Clinical Professor of Paediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

Professor Dowton joined the University in September 2012. During his first year, he led a highly consultative process to develop a long-term strategic framework for the University, establishing an ethos of service and engagement at the heart of its learning, teaching and research activities. The framework has subsequently enabled a dramatic improvement in research performance, a synthesis of traditional and technological learning and teaching activities, deeper relationships with corporate and industry partners, and significantly enhanced philanthropic giving. Based upon extensive planning since his arrival, the University Council has provided ‘in principle’ approval for a \$2.6N capital works program until 2024 to see the campus transformed. Dowton’s ability to clarify complexity, and highly engaging personal style, have since become hallmarks of his Vice-Chancellorship.

Professor Dowton was awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (with Honours) in 1980 from the University of Sydney. He completed his postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School and Children’s Hospital Medical Centre, Boston, where he held clinical and research fellowships in paediatrics and cell biology. He also holds a doctorate of medicine for his work in cell biology from the University of Sydney. His work as a laboratory scientist focused on regulation of the expression of genes for an important class of blood proteins.

Between 1985 and 1998, he held a number of positions at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri USA. In 1993 he was appointed Associate Dean for Medical Education, and in 1996 he became Associate Vice-Chancellor. During this time, he was Director of the Division of Medical Genetics at St Louis Children’s Hospital, leading a revitalisation of the clinical, research and education dimensions of the division.

As Associate Dean and Associate Vice-Chancellor of Washington University, he led many significant developments in educational programs for medical students, graduate medical education, and continuing medical education programs.

From 1998 to 2005 he served as Dean of the University of New South Wales Medical School in Sydney. During his tenure, UNSW implemented new educational programs, planned major new facilities, strengthened graduate-student education, doubled the amount of income from research, and developed strong ties with the health system.

In 2001 Professor Dowton, at the invitation of the NSW State Health Minister, established and chaired the Medical Education and Training Council, a body chartered to completely reorganise oversight of postgraduate clinical education programs across some 60 hospitals.

From 2002 to 2004, he was chair of the Committee of Deans of Australian Medical Schools (CDAMS) and led a major organisational repositioning to ensure CDAMS emerged as the peak body representing medical schools in Australia.

Returning to Boston in 2007, Professor Dowton held a variety of leadership roles at Harvard Medical International and Partners Harvard Medical International between 2007 and 2012, most notable as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. In addition to his management and leadership activities Professor Dowton led teams in projects that:

- developed a national chronic disease strategy for a North African country
- guided development of medical schools and university governance in Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kazakhstan
- integrated health and higher education planning for a satellite CBD in an Australian capital city
- planned clinical programs in hospitals aspiring to emerge as regional leaders
- reviewed a national health system in the Caribbean.

He has published articles on a wide range of topics in peer-reviewed academic publications, and has held Visiting Professorial and External Examiner appointments at several universities including the University of Edinburgh, Colombia University in New York, the University of Tromsø in Norway, Hong Kong University, as well as institutions in the People's Republic of China.

Additionally, Professor Dowton spends much of his time outside the University in corporate, philanthropic and community engagements. Currently, he serves:

- as a trustee on the Board of the Art Gallery of New South Wales.
- as Chairman of Open Universities Australia.
- as Co-chair of the Safety and Quality Council for the NSW Health Ministry of Health.
- as a member of Asia Society Australia.

Professor Dowton was born in the far central-western New South Wales town of Ivanhoe and raised in Dubbo. He was the first in his family to go to university.