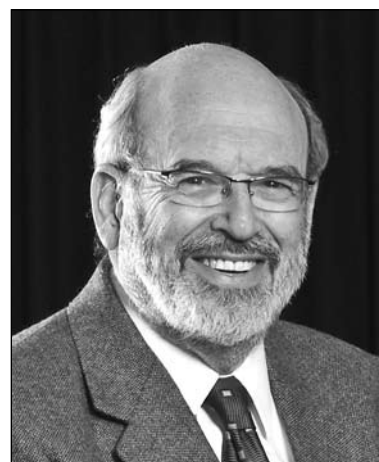

News

Professor Sir Peter Gluckman appointed Chief Science Adviser to Prime Minister

Professor Sir Peter Gluckman has been appointed by John Key as the first Prime Minister's Chief Science Adviser.

Professor Gluckman is a Distinguished Professor of Paediatric and Perinatal Biology, and Director of the Liggins Institute for Medical Research and the National Research Centre for Growth and Development at the University of Auckland. His research examines the factors during pregnancy that create a healthy start to life, in particular how a baby's environment from conception to birth determines its childhood development and lifelong health.

Professor Gluckman is the recipient of numerous professional accolades. He is a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to medicine and in 2001 received New Zealand's top science award, the Rutherford Medal. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, and the only New Zealander elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science in the United States and the Academy of Medical Sciences of Great Britain.



The part-time nature of the Chief Science Adviser role will allow Professor Gluckman to continue his research at the Liggins Institute and his interest in science communication, though in a reduced capacity. Professor Gluckman took up the appointment of Chief Science Adviser on 1 July, at which time he stepped down from his directorships at the University.

Professor Gluckman gave an inaugural lecture as Chief Science Adviser to staff and students at Massey University on the 17 July.

In it he indicated that, in his new role, he plans to challenge the science and policy communities to address some of the core issues that have limited the potential for science to transform New Zealand. 'Science can do so much more for New Zealand's transformational future,' Professor Gluckman said. 'But the science community pleading to the state to 'just give us more money', has slipped into a set of platitudes. This elicits an equally platitudinous set of responses. He saw his role as raising the quality of the dialogue to a much higher level.

Professor Gluckman's Massey lecture can be viewed in full at:

<http://tur-media-db1.massey.ac.nz/mediasite/Viewer/peid=45706edc9c714575b3ebbc80d714a2cf>