



Professor Alister C. Ward (BSc(Hons) PhD BA GCertHigherEd)

Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences

Professor Alister Ward is the Director of Pre-Clinical Studies in the Deakin Medical School. He has overall responsibility for Years 1 and 2 of the medical course and co-ordinates the Doctor and Knowledge of Health and Illness Theme. This builds on his previous experience as Course Co-ordinator for Deakin's successful Biomedical Science program.

Professor Ward has a wide educational background. He has completed a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree and a Doctor of Philosophy in the field of Biochemistry, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Melbourne. Most recently, he has successfully completed a Graduate Certificate of Higher Education from Deakin University.

Professor Ward has strong research credentials. He has published over 70 papers, with many in high impact journals, and has obtained extensive research funding, the majority derived from National Competitive Grant schemes. He has also received a number of prestigious fellowships, including a European Molecular Biology Organisation Long-Term Fellowship, an AMRAD Postdoctoral Award and a Sylvia and Charles Viertel Senior Medical Research Fellowship, as well as successfully supervising numerous Honours and PhD students. Professor Ward has also been involved in a range of research-related service roles, including Animal Ethics Committee (Chair), Associate Head of School (Research) and Premier's Award for Medical Research Judge.

Professor Ward's research program is primarily aimed at understanding signals controlling development and its perturbation in disease, particularly with respect to blood cells and disorders such as leukemia. Over the last several years, he has championed the use of zebrafish as a model organism for this and other aspects of medical research. He successfully led an Australian Research Council-funded initiative FishWorks: Collaborative Infrastructure for Zebrafish Research, and is part of another consortium that has secured a National Health and Medical Research Council Enabling grant to fund the Australian Zebrafish Phenomics Facility.

Having grown up in regional Victoria, Professor Ward brings a heartfelt enthusiasm for the rural and regional focus of the Deakin Medical School. He is confident that Deakin's program will deliver graduates with a broad and integrated medical knowledge that can be applied successfully in the clinic. He is also committed to developing a strong research profile for the School.

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