

Professor Sakkie Pretorius - Australia

Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research at Macquarie University in Sydney

Professor Sakkie Pretorius has a background in synthetic yeast genomics and wine biotechnology. Sakkie began his career in South Africa. At Stellenbosch University, he became the founding Director of South Africa's Institute for Wine Biotechnology. In the US and Europe, he conducted research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen, Germany, and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. In 2003, Sakkie relocated to Adelaide to take up the role of Managing Director of the Australian Wine Research Institute. In 2013, he took up his current role as Deputy Vice Chancellor Research at Macquarie University where he also initiated a research program in Synthetic Biology and founded the Australian Genome Foundry. He is the driving force behind a university-wide Engineering Biology strategy and leads the Australian team of the International Synthetic Yeast Genome project. Sakkie has published more than 260 peer-reviewed research articles (H index = 88), delivered more than 600 conference presentations, won research grants totalling more than \$130 million, achieved many awards, and filed six patents. Over the past three decades, he has supervised or co-supervised 34 PhD students and 56 MSc students. He is committed to academic excellence that creates value and opportunity for industry and the wider community. In his role as Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, he is committed to academic excellence that creates value and opportunity for industry and the wider community.