

Citation for Emeritus Professor Mingan Choct

Professor Mingan Choct is awarded Emeritus Professor in recognition of his outstanding record as an academic and a research leader, his contribution to UNE's standing nationally and internationally, his tireless support of UNE and the communities that UNE serves, and the legacy of the many students and early career researchers he has mentored and supported throughout his time at UNE.

Mingan Choct joined UNE in mid-1995 as a Lecturer in Poultry Nutrition, having obtained his PhD with Prof. Frank Annison at the University of Sydney in 1992, followed by a period at CSIRO in South Australia as a carbohydrate chemist working on human nutrition. While UNE was already active in poultry nutrition and had a proud history in the area, it was under Mingan's leadership that it grew in national and international importance.

In a little over 8 years, Mingan progressed from Lecturer to Full Professor at UNE, reflecting his outstanding research output and teaching contributions, his gain of an international reputation, and his impact on UNE's standing in poultry and animal sciences. He led the creation of the Australian Poultry CRC, based at UNE, and became its CEO when it was established in July 2003. He continued to lead the CRC for 14 years, over two iterations; a testament to his skills as a scientist, innovator and leader. Over this period Mingan managed a combined budget of \$178 million and 43 partners that included governments, multinational companies, small and medium size enterprises, universities, CSIRO and livestock producers. As CEO, he provided oversight for 177 multi-party research projects, producing 57 patents, exploring 12 vaccines, and commercializing four vaccines. These were enormous outcomes for the poultry industry and Australian Science, and UNE and Armidale benefitted greatly.

After the CRC concluded, Mingan took up the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor for External Relations at UNE. During his four years in that role, Mingan continued building strategic industry linkages, oversaw a major increase in international student enrolments, worked to reposition UNE as an "online always on" provider, and negotiated a transnational educational centre in Malaysia.

Throughout his time in senior leadership roles, Mingan continued to be a highly productive research academic, making many discoveries and solving practical problems have been taken up by poultry industries globally. Mingan has 414 peer-reviewed publications, as a truly exceptional H-index of 61, and ranks in the top 0.1% of researchers in his field on the Stanford Global ranking of individual researchers. He holds adjunct appointments at Ohio State University (USA), North Carolina State University (USA) and Soyol Erdem University (Mongolia).

Mingan has been a tireless champion of UNE through his career. Mingan collaborated extensively with international nutrition and pharmaceutical companies, whose staff are now heavily populated with postgraduate alumni of UNE. He has mentored countless research students, junior researchers and support staff with care and humility, for which he is widely acknowledged and admired, and will be long remembered.