

Does the Campus Matter?

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Chris Alcock is an architect and strategic consultant specializing in use of space and technology to support organisational and pedagogical innovation. He led the masterplanning team for all University of Otago campuses and continues to work with the University on the strategic planning of its infrastructure and facilities.

Dr. John Holm is a sociologist with expertise in the relationship between people and space, particularly in the context of the creation of communities in the academic, health and workplace sector. He is currently advising Queensland University of Technology, University of Technology Sydney and Flinders University.

Professor Peter Joyce is Dean of the University of Otago Christchurch. In addition to his role in leading the University in Christchurch he is a leading medical researcher covering a wide range of areas including psychiatric genetics, neurobiology, neuroendocrinology, personality, psychopharmacology and psychotherapy.

The Christchurch earthquakes that commenced in September 2010 and are continuing have devastated that city and it will be decades before it recovers. In the interim the citizens of Christchurch and its businesses, government and educational institutions are having to "make do" under the most difficult of circumstances. The City's universities were not spared and the challenges faced by the largest of them, the University of Canterbury, were well documented at last year's TEMC at the Gold Coast. Less well known in that city is the University of Otago Christchurch (UOC), which operates from a purpose designed building within the grounds of the Christchurch Hospital and from a number of buildings in the neighbouring precinct. With 600 students and 300 staff, UOC is an important part of the University's Division of Health Sciences, both as a senior undergraduate and postgraduate medical teaching centre as well as a major research hub for the University.

Prior to the earthquakes, UOC was studying options for expansion to relieve short term space shortages and to accommodate long-term projected growth. However the earthquakes generated a far more urgent priority. Some of its premises were destroyed in the earthquakes, and the remainder had to be completely vacated to effect repairs, which are still continuing.

Unlike Canterbury and Lincoln, which have their own campuses and the land to be able to provide temporary on-site accommodation, UOC has no land and for the past eighteen months has had to make do in a network of leased or borrowed premises across the city, none of which were designed for general teaching, let alone the specialist requirements of health sciences.

This experience has caused the University to completely re-think its attitude to the concept of "campus", the facilities provided therein and the priorities for its re-building. Robbed of the physical environment that is traditionally taken for granted, what are the things that are most missed, and what has been revealed to be less important? The answers to these questions have proven to be highly unexpected. Also tested has been the highly complex relationship between the University and the Christchurch Hospital in the context of both medical research and clinical teaching.

This presentation will address these issues from three different perspectives. Peter Joyce will discuss the University's challenges, the lessons learned from the experience and the new priorities for campus redevelopment, including plans for a major new health sciences research hub and new medical school. Chris Alcock, who developed the original

masterplan for the UOC expansion and who has facilitated the University's deliberations since, will overview the translation of these new priorities in a masterplanning context and John Holm will reflect the broader issue of the key elements of the creation of a durable and vital academic and research community and the role of space in supporting this.

The key themes explored will be the relationship between space, place and teaching; medical school and research facilities; masterplanning process and the use of space and technology in supporting communities of practice.

Please note that Professor Joyce's participation will be subject to confirmation. In the event that he is unable to attend an alternate senior faculty member will replace him.