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John Mackenzie is a part-time Research Associate and Professor of Tropical Infectious Diseases at Curtin University, Western Australia, where he had also been the inaugural Premier's Research Fellow from 2004-2008. He is currently domiciled in Melbourne where he is also an Honorary Senior Principal Fellow at the Burnet Institute. He had been Professor of Microbiology at the University of Queensland from 1995-2004, and continues to hold a position as an Honorary Professor in the School of Chemistry

and Molecular Biosciences at the University of Queensland. From 1973 to 2004 he was a member of the Department of Microbiology at The University of Western Australia, where he attained the rank of Professor of Microbiology.

His elected honours have included Secretary-General of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) from 1999-2005, Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, and Past President of the Australian Society for Microbiology and of the Asian-Pacific Society for Medical Virology. He continues to be involved in IUMS and recently served as Vice-President of the International Committee for the Taxonomy of Viruses. He was the recipient of the D I Ivanovsky Medal of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Distinguished Service Award of Australian Society for Microbiology (1999) and the Excellence in Virology Award of the Asian-Pacific Society for Medical Virology (2000). In 2002, he was appointed as Officer in the Order of Australia for services to public health research and to education. He was the inaugural recipient of the Academy of Science Malaysia's Mahathir Science Award for Excellence in Tropical Research in 2005.

He serves as a member of the steering committee of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization (WHO), as a member of the Technical Advisory Group of the WHO Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases, and recently served as Chair of the WHO International Health Regulations Emergency Committee for the Pandemic H1N1 influenza. He led the WHO team into China to investigate the emergence of SARS in March 2003, and was a member of the WHO tsunami relief team in Banda Aceh in 2005. He sits on a number of national committees including the Biosecurity Advisory Council, National Arbovirus and Malaria Advisory Committee, and the Australian Government Advisory Committee for the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza. He is also a member of the Science Advisory Panel of the Crown Research Institute, the Institute of Environmental Science and Research, New Zealand.

His recent research interests are mosquito-borne virus diseases and emerging zoonotic viruses. He has published over 300 major papers and research chapters on these and other research topics concerned with human and animal viral diseases, and contributed to a number of reference texts.