This year the Melbourne Medical School celebrates its 150th anniversary. We are taking full advantage of this opportunity to reflect on the many collaborative accomplishments and individual characters that have made the school what it is today. We are joined in our activities by other parts of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and of the University of Melbourne, just as we have shared our endeavours, with both struggles and triumphs over these many years.

The Melbourne Medical School opened its doors to the first Australian medical students on 3 March 1862, when William Carey Rees, Patrick Moloney and Alexander Mackie attended a chemistry lecture given by John Macadam in his own laboratory. We have certainly progressed since then: in our first decade 23 doctors graduated, whereas over the last decade an average of 250 have graduated each year. Each of these practitioners will go on to make, in their own way, important changes in the lives of patients and communities throughout the world.

Recording the past is important to understanding the present and planning for the future. So it is most fitting that the museums in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences—the Medical History Museum, Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum and Harry Brookes Allen Museum of Anatomy and Pathology—are playing an intrinsic part in celebrating the anniversary. A major publication launched in March, *Highlights of the collection, Medical History Museum*, focuses on 50 collection items, with contributions from leaders in medical practice, teaching, research and history. The three museums will bring together items from their respective holdings under the theme *A body of knowledge*. Two exhibitions will be held across three venues and will incorporate items from other University of Melbourne cultural collections: artworks from the Ian Potter Museum of Art and rare books from the Baillieu Library.

But interest in our history and collections will not cease with the sesquicentennial celebrations. There are plans to relocate the Medical History Museum to the ground floor of the Medical School Building, to increase accessibility to students, staff and the general public. This move will enable the display of more of the collection and will encourage further study of medical history.

The collections in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences would not exist without the foresight and generosity of donors. Many alumni of the Melbourne Medical School, and others, have contributed material to these collections, greatly enriching their significance and providing a great legacy to the University of Melbourne.