

The Business of Science

Professors Joerg Kistler, Director of the School of Biological Sciences (SBS), and Garth Cooper, the President and Chief Technical Officer of Protenix Corporation, are leading the charge to ensure the University of Auckland remains a hub for the country's biotechnology industry. Beginning in 2006, SBS will offer a Postgraduate Diploma and a Masters degree in Bioscience Enterprise—a collaborative programme between the Schools of Business, Law and Biological Sciences. "The goal," says Kistler, "is to develop business-savvy scientists who can facilitate the talk between researchers and business."

The model for the future is Protenix, an SBS spin-off that now has a diabetic heart disease drug in Phase IIB trials in the United States. The company has 50 staff, 30 graduate students and has raised \$50 million of funding. "We're competing on a global stage," Cooper says, "but there's nothing to prevent us doing well here, as long as you have the belief that you can do it, and the support like we have from the University."

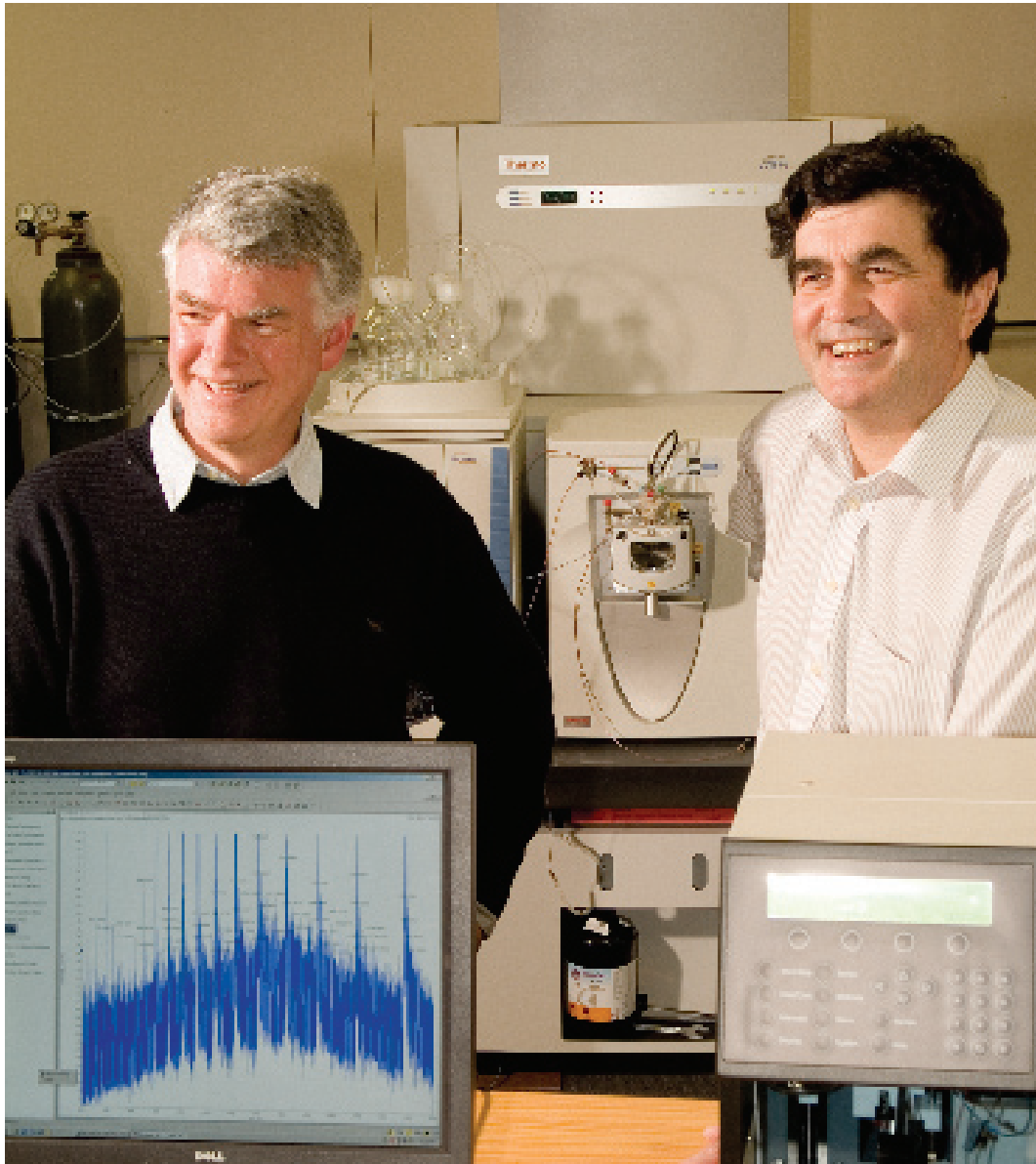


Photo: Professors Kistler (left) and Cooper in front of the ThermoFinnigan Fourier Transform Ion Cyclotron Resonance Mass Spectrometer, which measures the mass of ions more accurately than any other machine in the country.