

Alan Pearson citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Alan Pearson.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Nursing is being awarded to Emeritus Professor Pearson in acknowledgement of his outstanding contribution to the nursing profession, in particular through the work of the Joanna Briggs Institute at the University of Adelaide, which he established.

Alan Pearson qualified as a state registered nurse in Northallerton in the north east of England in 1969. He received a Master's degree from the University of Manchester in 1981 and subsequently a PhD from Goldsmiths College, University of London in 1985. In the early 1980s he set up a nurse-led orthopaedic unit at Burford Hospital. Designed upon a nursing model of care, this was a world-leading initiative.

Migrating to Australia, Emeritus Professor Pearson became founding Dean and Professor of Nursing at Deakin University in 1987 then used this experience to establish the School of Nursing at the University of New England in Armidale. He moved to the University of Adelaide in 1995 as founding Professor of Nursing and Head of School. It is a tribute to his skills and innovative thinking that each of the schools founded under his tutelage continues to shape academic, clinical and research leadership in the nursing profession today.

Emeritus Professor Pearson established the Joanna Briggs Institute in 2006. Under his leadership, it has grown from a small start-up epidemiology unit within SA Health to become a globally significant collaborative organisation that attracts academics from around the world. It is recognised as a world-leading enterprise in the dominant model for healthcare in our time – evidence-based healthcare.

Housed within the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, the Institute today has over 30 scientific and professional staff who govern a global collaboration of 78 groups in universities and medical centres across Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America and the Middle East.

Emeritus Professor Pearson himself conceptualised and oversaw the development of a set of software tools for evidence-based healthcare that became the basis of the Institute's self-funded model of operations.

At the same time, he was developing methodology for systematic reviews that redefined international standards and methods as well as the teaching and conduct of systematic reviews for complex clinical questions.

He has co-authored 16 systematic reviews and published over 50 books and research reports, more than 40 book chapters and in excess of 140 refereed journal articles. He has also supervised over 100 postgraduate students through to completion and received numerous competitive and research grants, including \$2.48 million to establish a new national Centre of Research Excellence, in partnership with the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and the University of Wollongong.

A long list of honours appropriately recognise his distinguished career and service to society and to the University of Adelaide. Most notably he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day Honours list of January 2010.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Alan Pearson, Member, Order of Australia (AM), Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, Fellow, Royal College of Nursing (UK) (FRCN), Fellow, College of Nursing, Australia (FCNA), Fellow, Australian Association of Gerontologists (FAAG), Fellow, American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) for admission to the degree of Doctor of Nursing (honoris causa).