

C15 – 13 September 2016, 11:00am

Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences

Presiding: Chancellor

Citation for conferral of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa): Professor John Hopwood

Chancellor, I present to you John Hopwood.

John Joseph Hopwood was born in Melbourne and educated at Swinburne Institute and subsequently Monash University. He received a Masters in Biochemistry at Monash University before receiving a PhD in 1972. He then moved as a Fulbright Scholar to Chicago where he also held a Joseph P Kennedy Fellow Neuroscientist award under Albert Dorfman. It was here that he became interested in the diagnosis, treatment and biology of so-called lysosomal diseases. These are inherited disorders of metabolism where abnormal genes lead to defective enzymes that are normally responsible for degrading a range of substances in our tissues. This leads to accumulation of proteins and sugar molecules with wide-ranging multi-organ consequences.

He transferred to the University of Uppsala in Sweden and then moved to the Department of Genetic Medicine in SA Pathology at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide. Here he established the Lysosomal Diseases Research Unit. He and his team were the first to isolate and characterise the genes in several lysosomal storage disorders and this led to the development of therapies that are either now fully approved and licenced or are currently under evaluation in clinical trials. Such research outcomes have vastly improved the quality of life for many patients worldwide. In addition to being an outstanding scientist he has worked closely with families and patients with lysosomal storage diseases acting as a fabulous advocate for the patients.

During his career he has raised over \$32 million in research funding, more than half of which has come from the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. This includes over \$11 million funding for a program grant on lysosomal storage disorders over a period of 16 years. He has been a member of a number of editorial boards including Biochemical and Molecular Medicine, Biochimica Biophysica Acta and Pathogenetics. He has supervised to completion 20 PhD students, several of whom have gone on to be outstanding researchers in their own right and he has a distinguished track record of high level collaborations across the world and highly fruitful interactions with biotechnology companies involved in the development of new forms of treatment. He has published 437 papers in peer-reviewed journals many of which have been in high impact factor journals and which have been highly cited.

He has been chair of Lysosomal Diseases Australia since 1998 and was chair of the Management Council of the Global Organisation for Lysosomal Disorders between 2004 & 2010. He received a Howard Florey Centenary award in 1998, the Lemberg Medal in 2004 and was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2004. He subsequently received the Premier's Science Award for Excellence in Research for Commercial Outcomes and the SA Scientist of the Year in 2008.

He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2007 and received the Clunies Ross Medal and CSL Florey Medal in 2009 for his pioneering work in biomedical science and human health. In 2012 he received the International Lysosomal Network award for innovation and accomplishment. He has served the university, the state and the country with distinction, impacting very positively on the hope and lives of patients and family with rare inherited disorders and is a very worthy recipient of an honorary degree in this University.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, Professor John Hopwood, Diploma of Applied Chemistry, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa).