

**C12 – 4 May 2016, 11:00am
Faculty of Health Sciences**

Presiding: Ms Dianne Davidson AM, Deputy Chancellor

Citation for conferral of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa): Emeritus Professor Robert Seamark

Deputy Chancellor, I present to you Robert Seamark.

Robert Seamark is an alumnus of the University of Adelaide obtaining a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 1959. He was subsequently awarded the Barr Smith Travelling Scholarship in Agriculture and moved to University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, where he obtained a PhD in the Faculty of Medicine, graduating in 1963. He then undertook a postdoctoral research Fellowship in the Department of Obstetrics at the University of Cologne, Germany, before returning to the University of Adelaide.

Most of Robert Seamark's career at the University of Adelaide was in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, where he played a leading role in the translation of assisted reproductive technologies at that time under development in the livestock industry to human clinical practice. In 1996 he took up the appointment of Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for the Biological Control of Vertebrate Pests in Canberra. In this position he applied his expertise to environmental issues namely the development of a new generation of biological control agents for the management of introduced pest animals such as the rabbit, fox and mouse, based on highly specific self-disseminating fertility vaccine.

Robert Seamark returned to South Australia in 2001 and served as Director and Chair of the Advisory Board of the Flinders Medical Research Institute and Professor in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at Flinders University. He played an active teaching role in the graduate entry program at Flinders.

Robert Seamark has demonstrated exceptional eminence in the direction and management of multidisciplinary, multi-institute biotechnology projects in the medical, livestock and environmental sciences with a strong focus on commercial outcomes. He has done so over a period of more than 50 years since his days as a PhD student.

In his career, Robert Seamark has published over 250 papers in high quality, international journals and is widely recognised as a pioneer and leading figure in Australia in biotechnology. He has long been a strong advocate for a greater focus on the translation of research into practical outcomes through commercialisation and co-founded and played a key advisory role in the establishment of several of Australia's listed biotechnology companies.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Deputy Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Robert Seamark, Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Doctor of Philosophy, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa).