

HONORIS CAUSA CITATION – PROFESSOR CAROLINE MCMILLEN

Wednesday 1 May 2019, 11.00am

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Isabella Caroline McMillen.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) is being awarded to Professor Caroline McMillen, in acknowledgement of her outstanding contribution to health and medical science, and to leadership in research and higher education.

Professor McMillen is a graduate of both Oxford and Cambridge universities with a First Class Honours degree in Physiological Sciences, Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy from Oxford, and a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery from Cambridge.

Professor McMillen's career in Australia began in 1983, when she arrived to lecture at Monash University.

In 1992 she was appointed Professor, Chair and Head of the Department of Physiology at the University of Adelaide. In 2005, she accepted the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice President: Research and Innovation at the University of South Australia, a position she held until her appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle in 2011.

Professor McMillen was named as South Australia's Chief Scientist in 2018.

As a medical and health researcher, Professor McMillen is internationally recognised for her work into the impact of the nutritional environment before birth on the risk of developing cardiovascular and metabolic disease in adult life.

In addition to her leadership in the higher education sector, Professor McMillen's work and that of her teams has been funded continuously by both the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Research Council since 1990. She has published more than 200 research articles, including papers in some of the field's most esteemed journals.

McMillen's work has been cited more than 4,100 times, and she has received invitations to present more than 70 Plenary or Symposia lectures at international and national conferences. She was selected by the NHMRC to contribute to the 'Great Minds in Health and Medical Research' podcast series in 2008 and was elected to the Council of the International Union of Physiologists in 2009.

Professor McMillen has received many national and international awards and recognition including becoming the Inaugural Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, and the Bragg Member of the Royal Institution, Australia. She has won the Excellence in Research Collaboration prize in the South Australian Science Excellence Awards; The Australian Physiological Society Lecturer and Medallist Award; the Zonta South Australia Woman of Achievement Award; the National Heart Foundation's Michael Auld Medical Research Award, and the Harrie and Crissie Harden Research Award; and the Penny McQuilken Memorial Visiting Professorship at the University of Nottingham.

Over her career, Professor McMillen has trained more than 50 Honours and PhD students who have gone on to win national honours and fellowships and made significant contributions in diverse careers, including research, industry, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and education.

She was a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council Working Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, focusing on maternal and pre-natal health. She has served as Chair of both the Australian Research Council and National Health and Medical Research Council's grant review panels.

Professor McMillen is an esteemed leader in the higher education sector in Australia. She has dedicated more than 30 years to higher education, holding leadership roles across research, innovation and teaching.

Chancellor, I am very pleased and proud to present to you Professor Caroline McMillen, Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Master of Arts, Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Doctor of Philosophy, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*).