

## **Emeritus Professor Jeffrey Robinson**

**Citation for conferral of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa)  
Conferral Ceremony, 31 May 2016, 10:00am  
Faculty of Health Sciences**

**Presiding: Rear Admiral the Honourable Kevin Scarce AC CSC RAN (Rtd),  
Chancellor**

Chancellor, I present to you Jeffrey Robinson.

Jeffrey Robinson graduated with First Class Honours from the Queen's University, Belfast, in 1967, winning the Gold Medal when he passed his Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in London. He built an outstanding research career at the University of Oxford before accepting the Chair of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Newcastle, NSW, in 1980, before being appointed Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Adelaide. He was appointed Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Adelaide in 1986, following the retirement of Professor Lloyd Cox and served as Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology until 2006.

During this time, he was integral in developing and promoting the University of Adelaide's outstanding international reputation for excellence in research and translation in obstetrics, gynaecology, and reproductive medicine and biology, through his recruitment and promotion of talented staff and his own research and clinical and scientific leadership.

He recruited, developed and mentored many leading clinical and basic scientists, whose research and translation of its outcomes into clinical guidelines, has contributed to the University's reputation in health and medical research and translation into improved clinical practice; these individuals have included Professor Robert Norman, Professor Caroline Crowther, Professor Gus Dekker, Professor Jodie Dodd and many others. Of note, under Professor Robinson's leadership, the University of Adelaide was awarded the largest number of competitive research grants over the 10 years leading up to 2006, for any Australian university department of obstetrics and gynaecology.

Jeffrey Robinson is an internationally renowned obstetrician, with a distinguished reputation in the reproductive medicine field for more than 45 years. He is also an outstanding clinician, providing care to women with high-risk pregnancies. He was also a superb teacher, with many of his students appointed to professional chairs or senior clinical or research positions. He also held major state based and national clinical leadership positions and led various national reviews and reports that contributed to improved health outcomes for mothers and infants.

His research has examined the control of foetal and placental growth and development, with his focus on the effects of placental and foetal growth restriction (one of the most common pregnancy complications), insulin-like growth factors and nutrition on foetal growth. Another major contribution has been to show that growth restriction of the foetus during pregnancy leads to increased mortality and morbidity around birth, and also to a risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease and obesity later in life. He is recognised world-wide as a pioneer in developing our understanding of the developmental and early life origins of these non-communicable diseases. His early review in this area in the Lancet continues to receive over 100 citations per year with more than 1800 to date.

He has produced over 280 high quality publications in his career, many in the highest impact journals. He has been frequently sought as a national and international plenary speaker, particularly in the area of foetal origins of adult diseases. Professor has been continuously funded by major competitive research funding bodies since early in his career. This included being funded by the UK Medical Research Council as a Programme Leader from 1977 onwards and subsequently by the National Health and Medical Research Council and other research funding bodies since arriving in Australia. This resulted in over \$1.5M from major national competitive research funding bodies whilst at University of Adelaide, including as Lead Investigator of the National Health and Medical Research Program, the Early Origins of Adult Disease (2002-2006). In doing so, he along with his academic team, established the basis for the Robinson Research Institute, which is named after him in recognition of these endeavours.

In addition, he has conducted numerous clinical studies including trials relating to mild gestational diabetes, induction of labour, and repeat dose corticosteroids before anticipated preterm and maternal overweight and obesity. The outcomes of many of these studies have already been incorporated into national and international clinical guidelines, and have improved clinical practice and consequently health outcomes.

Jeffrey Robinson has received numerous awards including a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 2006 for his services to maternal and foetal health and the Women's Hospitals Association Medal of Distinction. An Honorary Life Member of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine, Prof Robinson has also served as the president of the Federation of Australian, Asian and Oceania Perinatal Societies. He was one of the first four to be made an honorary life member of the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand and is an honorary fellow of the Federation of Asia and Oceania Perinatal Societies, a federation of the major national societies of perinatal and neonatal medicine in the geographical region of Asia and Oceania.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Jeffrey Robinson, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Medicine, Commander of the British Empire, Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa).