

Professor Edward Byrne AC

Citation for conferral of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa) Ceremony 14, Wednesday 7 May, 11:00am

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Professor Edward Byrne AC.

Professor Ed Byrne moved to Australia in his teens and studied Medicine at the University of Tasmania from which he graduated MBBS in 1974 and subsequently MD in 1982. In addition he earned an MBA from the University of Queensland in 2005.

He has had a distinguished career as a researcher and clinician in neuroscience. This began while he was a registrar in the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1978 where he had association with the University of Adelaide. He subsequently continued his research training in London but returned to Australia in 1983 to become Director of Neurology at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne at the age of 31.

He became founding director of the Melbourne Neuromuscular Research Unit and the Centre for Neuroscience in 1993 and was then appointed Professor of Experimental Neurology at the University of Melbourne. His scientific outputs in the field of mitochondrial diseases have been hugely influential and he has published highly cited scientific articles on neuromuscular diseases in particular those that are associated with abnormalities of mitochondrial DNA (so-called mitochondrial cytopathies).

He was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University in 2003 until 2007 during which time he demonstrated that he was also a highly accomplished university administrator and leader. He was subsequently appointed Vice President for Health at University College Hospital London but returned to Australia in 2009 to become the eighth Vice-Chancellor of Monash University. During his tenure as Vice-Chancellor, Professor Byrne led a substantial restructuring of the university and oversaw a period of remarkable growth of the University including consolidation of several successful off-shore campuses.

He has served on a number of company Boards including time as a Director of BUPA, the UK's leading provider of private healthcare insurance and healthcare services. In addition he has played an important role on several charitable trusts and community based organisations for patients with neuromuscular disorders.

He was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia in the Australian Day 2006 Honours List for his service to neurology as a clinician and academic and to advances in medical research, particularly in the area of mitochondrial muscle disease.

More recently he was appointed as a Companion of the Order of Australia in the Australian Day 2014 Honours list for eminent service to tertiary education, particularly through leadership and governance roles with Monash University, to biomedical teaching and research, as a scientist and academic mentor, and as a contributor to improved global health.

He has been appointed Principal and President, Kings College London where he will take up office in early 2014.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa) — Professor Edward Byrne AC.