

## **Professor Robert Norman AO**

### **Citation for conferral of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa) Ceremony 3, Tuesday 28 April 2015, 2:00pm**

Chancellor, I present to you Robert Norman.

Robert Norman was born in the United Kingdom but grew up in Africa. He obtained his primary medical qualification from the University of Birmingham and then specialized in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and hormonal aspects of pathology. He worked in Zimbabwe, Durban and London and has visited many leading reproductive health centres in the world as a visiting lecturer or professor. He holds a Fellowship of the Royal Colleges of Obstetrics and Gynaecology *and* Pathology in both this country and the UK.

He moved to Australia in 1988 and was made Professor for Reproductive and Periconceptual Medicine at the University of Adelaide in 1998 when he became head of the Reproductive Medicine Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and head of the leading In Vitro Fertilisation group of the time, Repromed Pty Ltd. He led this group until 2003 when he established a major research team, the Research Centre for Reproductive Health. Together with Professor Colin Matthews he established a world leading fertility unit with Australia's first pregnancies from intracytoplasmic sperm injection (and only the third in the world), pre-implantation diagnosis and frozen eggs. He was the main proponent of single embryo transfer in Australia and secured accreditation as the first clinic in Asia-Pacific with ISO quality control. In 2009 he co-founded *Fertility SA*, a reproductive medicine unit that practices all branches of assisted reproduction.

In 2008, he became inaugural director of the Robinson Research Institute in the University of Adelaide, a post that he held until 2013. This represents *the* leading grouping of researchers in reproductive and child health and regenerative medicine in Australia. These world-renowned scientists and clinicians work in areas of basic reproduction, cell biology and stem cells. The Institute places a strong emphasis on clinical, public health and commercial translation of research, areas that Professor Norman is personally passionate about. He has trained more than 20 clinical fellows and 30 PhDs.

His major research contributions have been in in vitro fertilisation and reproductive endocrinology, particularly in polycystic ovarian syndrome, the effect of lifestyle on reproductive outcomes and periconception medicine. His research successes span the translational spectrum from basic laboratory research to clinical trials and public health. He has published over 420 peer-reviewed publications, many in the highest-ranking journals, and his work has been cited over 20000 times. He continues to serve on the editorial board of a number of major international reproductive journals.

He has also served on several NHMRC and ARC committees, including leading project grant panels, the NHMRC Research Committee, the NHMRC Embryo Licensing Committee and the NHMRC Program committee.

He was awarded an Order of Australia in 2013 for his distinguished service to medicine in the field of reproductive health through contributions as a clinician and researcher.

Professor Norman has received many other prestigious awards over the years. In 2001 he received the SA Great Award for Health for his leadership as CEO of Repromed Pty Ltd. In 2007 the National Health and Medical Research Council named him as one of 10 of the Best Great Minds in Australian Research. In 2009 his Healthy Development Adelaide was winner of the SA Science Excellence Award for Research for Collaboration and in the same year he received SA Great Award for Science awarded for best contribution to Science in South Australia, SA Great Award for Health awarded for best contribution to Health in South Australia and South Australian Scientist of the Year awarded for most outstanding scientific leadership. In 2013 he received the American Society of Reproductive Medicine Distinguished Research Leader Award, one of the highest accolades in his field.

Professor Norman has served the University of Adelaide, his profession and this state with distinction. The advances in assisted reproduction to which he has contributed have had a global impact enriching the lives of many. I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, Professor Robert Norman, Bachelor of Science (Honours), Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Doctor of Medicine, Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Certified practitioner in reproductive endocrinology and infertility, Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, Officer of the Order of Australia, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa).