

Citation – Professor Richard Scolyer AO

Tuesday, 28 April 2026 – 2.30pm

Vice-Chancellor and President, it is my privilege to present to you Professor Richard Scolyer AO for an honorary Doctor of Medicine in recognition of his transformational work on the diagnosis and pathological characterisation of melanoma through pioneering pathology, translational cancer research and his global medical and research leadership.

Richard's early years set the foundation for an exceptional career in medicine, marked by a steady progression through some of the most respected qualifications in the field. After completing a Bachelor of Medical Science, he advanced to earn his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, establishing his clinical grounding. His commitment to research and academic excellence led him to pursue a Doctor of Medicine, deepening his expertise in pathology and melanoma research.

As his career developed, Richard achieved prestigious professional recognition, becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in the United Kingdom - credentials that reflect his international standing in diagnostic pathology. His contributions to medical science and leadership in cancer research were further acknowledged through his election as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, underscoring his influence on both national and global health advancement.

Richard stands as one of Australia's most influential melanoma pathologists and medical scientists, with extraordinary impact on melanoma research, cancer diagnostics and internationally adopted pathological standards. He was at the forefront of transforming the diagnosis and pathological understanding of melanoma, through pioneering advances in pathology practice and research. His leadership has been vital in the development of the world's gold standard melanoma staging and the most comprehensive molecular profiling of melanoma.

As CoMedical Director of the Melanoma Institute Australia, he was at the forefront of major improvements in the diagnosis, management and survival outcomes of melanoma, especially through his pioneering pathology research and the development of internationally adopted guidelines for the clinical management of melanoma.

With more than 1,000 peer reviewed publications, he is regarded as a preeminent authority in dermatopathology and a driving force behind innovations that have reshaped cancer care. His global influence is reflected in his service on the WHO Editorial Board for the *Classification of Skin Tumours* and as Vice Chair of the Melanoma Expert Panel for the American Joint Committee on Cancer, where his expertise continues to shape international standards.

His contributions have been recognised through the nation's highest honours, including being named Australian of the Year in 2024 (jointly with Professor Georgina Long AO) for groundbreaking melanoma research and clinical impact. He was the first pathologist to receive the NSW Premier's Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year Award in 2020, and his international standing is affirmed by the Society for Melanoma Research Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023, the ASDP Founders' Award, and the IAP Distinguished Pathologist Medal also in 2023. In 2021 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to medicine and international professional organisations.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Richard is a dedicated mentor, a champion for equitable cancer care in regional and Indigenous communities, and a national leader shaping cancer policy. His career exemplifies innovation, integrity and service.

Vice-Chancellor and President, as we stand in this place devoted to Leadership for Good, I present Professor Richard Scolyer AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa), and I invite you to confer the degree upon him.