

Citation for David Anstice AO
Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*)
Thursday, 15 April 2021 – 1.00pm

Vice-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present David Anstice AO to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to business, education and the wider community.

David Anstice graduated from the University of Sydney in 1970 with a Bachelor of Economics and subsequently joined pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme in 1974. Merck is a world leader in the discovery, development, manufacture and marketing of prescription medications and vaccines. While working at Merck, David quickly progressed through a series of positions of increasing responsibility across several continents. He was appointed Managing Director of Merck Sharp & Dohme Australia at a young age before going on to lead its regional businesses in Europe, North America and Asia. He played a role for Merck in securing the global development and commercialisation rights to the HPV vaccine, now GARDASIL, which has rapidly reduced the rates of cervical cancer in young women.

After retiring from Merck in September 2008 after 35 years of service, David continued to use his business and marketing acumen as Non-Executive Director of CSL Limited, a global biopharmaceutical company based in Melbourne, from September 2008 until October 2018. He is currently a Non-Executive Director of biopharmaceutical companies Alkermes plc in Boston and Dublin, and NeuClone Pharmaceuticals Ltd here in Sydney.

Although primarily based in the United States, David has remained a great friend of the University of Sydney and has demonstrated a commitment to the transformative power of philanthropy. He has been a dedicated member and Chairman of the University of Sydney USA Foundation Board since 2003. The Board strengthens ties between the University and alumni and friends based in the United States and allows philanthropic support to be provided by United States donors. He is an Adjunct Professor in the University of Sydney Business School, was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the University in 2007 and served as Deputy Chair of the Board of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney from 2012 to 2018 during his 10 year tenure on that Board.

In 2010, he established the Westbrook and Jessie Anstice International Travel Scholarship, which supports coursework and honours students at the University of Sydney Business School to attend an international seminar or conference. David again demonstrated his generosity in 2013 when he established the Anstice MBA Scholarship for Community Leadership, which supports emerging business leaders in community, not for profit organisations to study a Master of Business Administration at the University of Sydney Business School in order to acquire world-class business and management skills. He also provides funding for scholarships made available to participants in the United States Study Centre's study abroad programs, giving Australian students the opportunity to study at a United States higher education institution. He has very recently supported funds for a second phase feasibility study for adding a NanoHealth arm to the research at our University's NanoInstitute in the School of Physics.

Throughout his career, David has been dedicated to strengthening the important relationship between Australia and the United States, as an active member, for many years, of the New York based American Australian Association. The American Australian Association is the leading privately funded non-profit organisation dedicated to deepening and strengthening cooperation and understanding between the institutions and people of the United States and Australia. As a member of its Advisory Council, David was a key contributor to the growth of the organisation's educational Fellowship programs. The American Australian Association has awarded over 800 Graduate, Veteran and Art scholarships in the past 30 years.

David has also offered his skills and expertise to other organisations in the United States that reflect his broad interests, including the United States Biotechnology Industry Organisation, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, and the Board of the Foundation of the University of the Valley of Guatemala.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours of 2018, David was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for his distinguished service to Australia-America business relations, particularly in the pharmaceutical field, through roles with multinational and educational organisations.

In addition to being one of the most influential figures in the history of Australia's pharmaceutical industry, David has gone beyond the expectations of his field by dedicating his time and expertise to improving relations between the United States and Australia, and contributing to the educational opportunities of many young people who are seeking to broaden their learning experience.

Vice-Chancellor, I present David Anstice AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*) and invite you to confer the degree upon him.