

Dr Ronald Ettinger

The honorary degree of Doctor of Dental Science was conferred upon Ronald Ettinger by the Chancellor, Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM at a Faculty of Dentistry graduation at 2.00pm on 4 March 2016.

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Dr Ronald Ettinger to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Dentistry (honoris causa).

Dr Ronald Ettinger is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Prosthodontics, and the Dows Institute for Dental Research, College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa where he has been on academic staff since 1973.

Dr Ettinger was awarded his Bachelor of Dental Surgery in 1966, a Master of Dental Surgery in 1970 and a Doctor of Dental Science in 1992; all from the University of Sydney. He also received, from the University of Iowa, a Certificate in Gerontology in 1983.

Dr Ettinger is a world renowned gerodontist - a dentist who manages the oral health of elderly persons. He has developed and directed geriatric and special needs education at the College of Dentistry. His teaching responsibilities included clinical prosthodontics at the undergraduate level and clinical geriatrics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and he was also involved in clinical care of patients in both disciplines. He has developed principles in geriatric dentistry and prosthodontics that have established the basic concepts of rational dental care based on patient assessment and on the risk factors that influence outcomes of care.

Dr Ettinger is internationally renowned for research on dental care of the elderly and handicapped, including longitudinal studies of overdentures, aging at the cellular level, efficacy of fluoride prevention for overdenture abutments, epidemiology of oral diseases in older adults, and health service needs of older adults. He has led longitudinal research on overdentures and evaluated the outcomes over 20 years. His research has led to better clinical decision making and predictable outcomes for patients. He also studied decision-making of dentists involving the care of patients with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. He has published over 250 papers and over 20 chapters in textbooks, and has lectured extensively across the globe. His results have informed clinicians, policy makers and educators for the benefit of the patient and community at large.

Dr Ettinger has been a past president of the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry, a member of both the American and International Associations for Dental Research (AADR and IADR), past president of the AADR's Prosthodontics Research Group, past president of the IADR Geriatric Oral Research Group, and editor-in-chief of *Special Care in Dentistry* for 17 years.

In 2001, he received the IADR Distinguished Scientist Award in Geriatric Dentistry and in 2010, Dr Ettinger received the IADR Prosthodontics and Implant Dentistry Award; two of the highest honours bestowed by IADR.

Dr Ettinger maintains contact with the University through his membership of Sydney University Graduates Union North America, where he is currently a Director and the Conference Advisory Committee Chairperson as well as a Past President.

Chancellor, I present Dr Ronald Ettinger for admission to the degree of Doctor of Dentistry (honoris causa) and I invite you to confer the degree upon him.