

Dr Victor Warren Fazio

The degree of Master of Surgery (honoris causa) was conferred upon Dr Victor Warren Fazio at the ceremony held on 31 October 1995.

Citation

Presented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Derek Anderson

Chancellor, I have the honour to present to you Victor Warren Fazio for admission to the degree of Master of Surgery, honoris causa.

Victor Fazio was born in Sydney and graduated in Medicine from The University of Sydney in 1964. After completing his training in Surgery at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney he was selected by The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to attend the Lahey Clinic in Boston to continue his surgical training. He was then invited to continue his training in the Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery at the prestigious Cleveland Clinic, which was then chaired by Dr Rupert Turnbull. Within a short period of time it became obvious that Dr Fazio was an exceptional man and an outstanding surgeon. Within a year of joining the staff of the Cleveland Clinic, Dr Fazio, still in his thirties, was invited to Chair the Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery which already enjoyed an enviable international reputation.

The scene was set for his career: a young graduate of this University in his thirties had been appointed to Chair the leading Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery in the world. Within a short period of time Dr Fazio lived up to expectations. He not only enhanced the Clinic's reputation as an international leader in patient care, but established and promoted a vigorous research programme. He has published well over 300 scientific manuscripts and five surgical text books and contributed countless chapters in other books. He has become one of a handful of internationally visible surgeons. He has been honoured by many learned societies, and in 1996 was elected President of The American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. In 1997, The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons awarded him an Honorary Fellowship: an honour restricted for truly outstanding contributions. Dr Fazio has served on the editorial board of many leading journals and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of The American Journal of Diseases of the Colon and Rectum.

A most likeable feature of Vic Fazio's nature is that, despite his international success, he has never forgotten his background. He proudly retains an Australian accent. Most importantly, he has opened doors for dozens of Australian colleagues and has trained many of the leading surgeons in this country, including many from this University. He has been a tireless supporter of our University and continues to be one of its most outstanding ambassadors.

Chancellor, I present Victor Warren Fazio for admission to the degree of Master of Surgery, honoris causa.