

Emeritus Professor Kerry John Goulston AO

The honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon Kerry Goulston by the Chancellor, Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM at a Faculty of Medicine graduation at 11.30am on 21 April 2016.

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Emeritus Professor Kerry Goulston AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa) in recognition of his exceptional service to Vietnam, health reform, gastroenterology and medical education.

Kerry Goulston has been teaching in Vietnam for almost 20 years. In early discussions with leaders in Vietnam about improving relations, the concept of the Hoc Mai Foundation was born. Hoc Mai means “forever learning,” involving exchange of medical students and young doctors between Australia and Vietnam. A major goal of the Foundation is to improve health in Vietnam by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and forming ongoing relationships.

In addition to establishing and nurturing Hoc Mai, for over ten years he has taken teams of volunteers to Hanoi to teach medical English, resulting in ongoing friendships and opportunities for further professional development. During this time he received the award of the Medal for Vietnamese Peoples Health and was made an Honorary Professor of Hanoi Medical University.

Professor Goulston co-initiated the Advanced Course in Medical Education and Research in Hanoi. This annual program, initially funded entirely by private donations, is now supported by the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Each year 25 to 30 of the best recent graduates from Hanoi Medical University are selected to attend teaching in Vietnam conducted by Australian clinical academics. The group then comes to Australia for intensive, interactive teaching sessions followed by one-on-one clinical and research attachments.

In 2000 Kerry Goulston was chosen by the NSW Minister for Health to lead a new body, the Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce. Under his leadership the Taskforce established health networks across the metropolitan area, improved communication between clinicians, health administrators and government and ensured that health services were equitably distributed. It involved patient representatives in all proposals. This is now regarded as the model for engaging clinicians, administrators, government and patients to improve health outcomes.

Professor Goulston established the Health Reform Group, comprising committed medical, nursing and allied health clinicians, as well as consumers. This respected Group meets regularly with senior bureaucrats and political leaders to look at ways to improve health services.

Professor Goulston has had a major impact on medical education. As Associate Dean of the Northern Clinical School he ensured student horizons were broadened by seminars on the broader aspects of medicine. In postgraduate education he chaired the NSW Medical Postgraduate Council and was inaugural Chair of the Confederation of Medical Postgraduate Councils of Australia and New Zealand. In 1999 his contributions were recognised by the award of Geoffrey Marel Memorial Medal.

In 2006 he was asked by the Dean of Medicine to co-lead an extensive review of the Sydney University Medical Program. Over 90% of the recommendations from this extensive review were unanimously adopted. He subsequently co-reviewed admission policies for both Medicine and Dentistry, the medical content of the Dental program and the Masters course work degrees in the School of Medicine.

His chosen specialty is gastroenterology. He established the first gastroenterology unit in Canberra, and was regarded as “the specialist politicians want to see” because of his superb clinical skills, his no-nonsense approach and utter integrity.

He subsequently established the gastroenterology unit at Concord Hospital, became President of the Gastroenterological Society of Australia, Vice-President of the World Congress of Gastroenterology and inaugural Chair of the Australian Gastroenterology Institute.

He has received the Distinguished Service Medal from the Gastroenterological Society of Australia and was awarded an Order of Australia (AO) for “services to Gastroenterology, Veterans, Colorectal Cancer and Clinical Teaching”

Chancellor, I present Emeritus Professor Kerry Goulston AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (honoris causa) and invite you to confer the degree upon him.