

## Mr Barry Lambert

An honorary Fellowship of the University was conferred upon Barry Lambert by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence, at a University of Sydney Faculty of Medicine and Health graduation at 2.00pm on 12 December 2019.

### Citation

Vice-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Mr Barry Lambert to you for an Honorary fellowship of the University in recognition of his contribution to research in therapeutic use of medicinal cannabis at the Brain and Mind Centre and the establishment of the Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid Therapeutics.

Mr Lambert made his mark in the business world in the financial sector starting at the bottom as a bank teller while studying commerce. He quickly decided to carve his own path and started his own independent national financial services network, Count Financial. His business was built with a practical and straight forward work ethic and most importantly while maintaining and prioritising his moral obligation to his clientele.

After selling Count Financial, Barry moved onto many other business endeavours including overseeing the Initial Public Offering of software provider Class. In an emerging market Barry is also the Chairman for Ecofibre, an Australian company which distributes hemp-based products which are legal in the USA. They own and commercialise new technologies and intellectual property allowing them to grow, process and provide hemp to numerous levels of industry at scale.

In 2015, Barry and Joy pledged \$33.7 million to the University of Sydney for research into the therapeutic use of medicinal cannabis at the Brain and Mind Centre. It is an Australian first in the field, both in its breadth and depth of research innovation, and places the University at the forefront of cannabinoid research. The donation is also the largest ever made to research at the University of Sydney.

The Lambert Family donation funds a multi-year program (2015 - 2024) to build on the University's extensive clinical and scientific cannabinoid-related expertise to ultimately produce cannabinoid-based medicines that are safe, reliable and affordable. The Lambert Initiative holds the promise of optimising and introducing safe and effective cannabinoid therapeutics into mainstream medicine through its many ongoing research, education and outreach programs

Both Barry and Joy were driven by the need to put an end to the life-threatening seizures experienced their granddaughter, Katelyn, who suffers from Dravet syndrome. As a result of medicinal cannabis, Katelyn can now go to school and experience life as a normal eight-year-old. Barry and Joy's goal was to fund research into the possibility of cannabinoid treatments, not only for epilepsy, but for a broad range of chronic illnesses. The Lambert Initiative targets a range of conditions including paediatric epilepsy, cancer, chronic pain, obesity, and neurological and mental health disorders.

Research outcomes are translated into practice by providing outreach to the community and to health professionals. This includes engaging consumer organisations and media to educate the public and transform current policy regarding the use of medicinal cannabis. The current portfolio of research includes more than 15 foundation projects and a number of clinical trials. For example, the team is conducting a study to examine whether cannabis extracts can improve anxiety symptoms in young adults, and if it effectively relieves chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in cancer patients.

As well as their transformational gift to the University of Sydney, Barry is an active supporter of the medicinal cannabis industry on an international scale making a \$US5 million sponsorship to the Lambert Center at American's largest medical university Thomas Jefferson University to research hemp extract, with the view that an over the counter product will help to reduce opioid addiction and health costs in the USA.

Vice-Chancellor, I present to you Mr Barry Lambert and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon him.