

Mrs Joy Lambert

An honorary Fellowship of the University was conferred upon Joy 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 Mrs Joy Lambert to you for an Honorary Fellowship of the University in recognition of her 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.

Mrs Joy Lambert has strongly supported and promoted research excellence at the University through the establishment and maintenance of the Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid Therapeutics. She has represented the University's need for resources, which has been a catalyst for the INSPIRED campaign and its current success. In addition, Joy has fostered an international research linkage between Thomas Jefferson University and the University of Sydney. In and beyond the University, Joy has changed minds by providing a new perspective on cannabis, highlighting its medicinal potential and ability to alleviate suffering. This perspective includes the requirement for a solid scientific basis, which she has greatly facilitated through the Lambert Initiative.

The Lambert Initiative is a world-first research centre focussed on developing effective and safe cannabis-based medicines. It is also committed to outreach, and routinely provides expert advice and education to the general community, the medical profession, pharmacists, and the government. Scientific research plays an important role in advancing medicinal cannabis and will ensure that it is utilised appropriately and optimally to treat disease. Joy's continued financial and ideological support has transformed the University's research efforts in this area and allowed the University to lead Australia and the world in the science of cannabis and the cannabinoids.

The unique research being carried out thanks to this Initiative has both preclinical and clinical research teams that are co-located and actively collaborating on a daily basis. Joy's support has enabled the creation of state-of-the-art facilities which are now thriving with the research activity of 40 researchers who are making ground-breaking discoveries at an awe-inspiring rate.

Thanks to the Lambert Initiative the university has been able to attract an outstanding team of researchers including post-doctoral researchers Dr Lyndsey Anderson and Dr Samuel Banister, who were both recruited from premier institutions who are now training the next generation of University of Sydney undergraduate and postgraduate research students. The experience and influence of these early career research stars has had a hugely positive impact on improving the scientific training of the next generation of scientists at the Lambert Initiative and the University more broadly. Their recruitment would not have occurred without the support of Joy.

Joy Lambert is a fierce proponent of the need to change the way we think about cannabis and has campaigned strongly for greater patient access to cannabis-based medicines. Inspired by the benefits of this plant for her granddaughter Katelyn, Joy's vision of medicinal cannabis has struck a chord with the University's UNLEARN campaign, which included the "unlearning" of cannabis as a harmful drug of misuse into cannabis as a medicine with potential health benefits.

Joy helped establish the Lambert Centre at Thomas Jefferson University to facilitate research into hemp, a form of cannabis rich in cannabidiol, a non-psychoactive constituent of the plant. She has since fostered research links between TJU and the University of Sydney. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between TJU and the University which forms the basis for future collaboration. The Lambert Family has made a \$US5 million sponsorship to the Lambert Center 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.

Through her spirit of generosity Joy has truly changed the lives of thousands, if not millions of people in Australia and around the world who suffer from conditions that can be alleviated through safe and effective cannabinoid therapeutics.

Since her relationship with the University of Sydney began in 2014, Joy has firmly supported the interests and welfare of the Brain and Mind Centre. She has continually promoted and facilitated the academic purposes of the University through the Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid Therapeutics.

Vice-Chancellor, I present to you Mrs Joy Lambert and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon her.