

## Dr Ian Martin

The honorary degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science was conferred upon Ian Martin by the Pro-Chancellor, Mr Barry Catchlove AM at a Faculty of Veterinary Science graduation at 2.00pm on 9 December 2016.

### Citation

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present to you Dr Ian C.A. Martin for admission to the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science (honoris causa).

Dr Martin's connection with the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the University of Sydney began in 1950, when, fresh from selective high school, he enrolled in the Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree. He joined the staff of the Faculty in May 1955 and became one of the Faculty's early PhD graduates in 1962, and Reader in Veterinary Physiology in 1972. In the course of his academic career Veterinary Physiology became internationally renowned for advancing reproductive technologies. Dr Martin educated veterinarians and reproductive scientists who applied these technologies to Australian farms, and conducted research that had direct practical benefits, through introduction of artificial insemination to the sheep industry. In 1990 he was appointed to the University-wide post of Director of Laboratory Animal Services, with responsibility for all laboratory animals throughout the University.

Today we honour Dr Martin for his activities since his formal retirement in 1994. Dr Martin has continued reproduction research through the creation of a new inbred strain of mice, known as Quackenbush Swiss, QSi5. This strain is the world's most fertile inbred strain of mice, averaging 13 pups per litter (3 times more than normal inbred strains) and has become a powerful resource for veterinary and human medical research. In particular, through his leadership of breeding programs for the QSi5 strain, and his generous mentoring of postgraduate students, Dr Martin has enabled collaboration with research teams from the UK, USA and Norway and, closer to home, from the Prince of Wales Hospital and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, to generate insights into metabolism, fertility, lactation, platelet and cardiovascular function, authoring 11 publications. This strain has also enabled commercialisation of improved culture media for human in vitro fertilisation, increasing the effectiveness of this technology in Australia and Europe and contributing to the births of hundreds of babies.

Dr Martin's contribution is well summed up Professor Richard Harvey, Deputy Director of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and Sir Peter Finley Professor of Heart Research at the University of NSW, who says: *"I can only say how grateful I am for the mentorship and care and attention that Ian extended to my group and the single-minded vision for how his program of animal breeding and quantitative genetic methods could be used to tackle problems in human disease. It has been a wonderful and successful collaboration that is just one example of Ian's commitment to the University's scientific and teaching life. It has had both specific and broader impact, beyond veterinary science into human disease. For me it serves also as an example of the sort of dedication upon which Australia's scientific reputation and the pillars of its stellar Institutes are built."*

Dr Martin's continuous professional involvement with the Faculty and the University, his broad research contributions in mammalian reproductive biology, artificial insemination, sperm preservation, fertilisation and lactation and his continuing contributions to understanding of quantitative traits for reproductive physiology are a contribution which now extends to 66 years, influencing generations of veterinarians, animal scientists and research scholars.

Chancellor, I present Dr Ian Martin for admission to the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science (honoris causa) and I invite you to confer the degree upon him.