

Professor Scott O'Neill

The honorary degree of Doctor of Science in Agriculture was conferred upon Scott O'Neill by the Pro-Chancellor, Mr Kevin McCann AM at a Faculty of Agriculture and Environment graduation at 4.00pm on 12 May 2017.

Citation

Pro-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Professor Scott O'Neill to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science in Agriculture (*honoris causa*).

Scott has made outstanding contributions to the field of infectious disease research, which has influenced the thinking and general well-being of the wider community.

Scott graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with First Class Honours, specialising in entomology. He then obtained his PhD in entomology from the University of Queensland in 1989 before moving to the University of Illinois as a post doctorate.

Scott then moved to Yale University where he became the Head of the Section of Vector Biology before moving back to Australia to work at the University of Queensland as Professor and Head of the Zoology and Entomology Department and then Head of the School of Biological Sciences. From 2011 to 2016, Scott held the role of Dean of Science at Monash University before commencing in 2016 as Director for the newly formed Institute of Vector-Borne Disease at Monash. Since 2005, Scott has also been the Director of the global *Eliminate Dengue Program*.

In his academic career Scott has published over 160 high-impact research papers, given invited conference papers and departmental seminars across nine countries and refereed manuscripts for over 30 different journals.

The majority of Scott's research has centred on infecting mosquitoes with *Wolbachia* bacteria to reduce transmission of mosquito-borne diseases, including dengue, Zika, yellow fever and chikungunya in Asia and South America. His work on successfully infecting disease-carrying mosquitoes with a naturally occurring bacterium has developed a way to stop the spread of a problem affecting millions of people worldwide – and can potentially reduce our dependencies on insecticides. His research with the *Eliminate Dengue Program* has received significant support from numerous bodies including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Gillespie Family Foundation, USAID, Wellcome Trust and the Australian, Queensland and Brazilian governments.

Scott has been the recipient of a number of prestigious awards and fellowships in both the United States and Australia including a Centenary Medal awarded by the Australian Government for contributions to medical research and the Mackerras Medal from the Australian Entomological Society in 2010 for excellence in entomology over many years. Scott is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

For their breakthrough in insect-borne disease control, the *Eliminate Dengue Program* team, led by Scott, received the 2013 Australian Museum Infectious Diseases Research Centre Eureka Prize for Infectious Diseases Research.

Pro-Chancellor, I present Professor Scott O'Neill for the award of Doctor of Science in Agriculture (*honoris causa*).