

## Mr Arthur Charles Webster

The title of Honorary Fellow of the University was conferred upon veterinarian Arthur Charles Webster, BVSc Qld DipBact Lond, at a conferring of degrees ceremony held on 20 December 2002.

### Citation

Chancellor, I have the honour to present Arthur Charles Webster for the conferring of the title of Honorary Fellow of the University.

Dr Webster is one of Australia's most distinguished veterinarians and has been closely associated with the University of Sydney through the Faculty of Veterinary Science, the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science and the Veterinary Science Foundation.

The Webster family has had a long-standing close association with the University of Sydney, as Dr Webster's father was a graduate of the Faculty of Veterinary Science and he founded what became an internationally successful vaccine manufacturing company, Arthur Webster Pty Ltd. Dr Webster's son, Alister, is a recent graduate in veterinary science.

Dr Webster has given dedicated service to this University through his expertise in business administration, strategic development and management of research and manufacturing business. He is currently on the Board of CSL, one of Australia's major international drug companies.

Dr Webster has been a member of the Council of the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science for more than 15 years (including a period as President) and his contributions to the development of continuing education in the veterinary profession have been outstanding. He has been one of the key players in the success of the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science through the management of the Foundation's continuing education business and its strategic direction.

For the past 4 years, Dr Webster has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Veterinary Science Foundation (formerly the JD Stewart Foundation), and has played a major role in the development of the Foundation and he and his family have provided significant financial support to the Faculty. He has been closely involved in a range of fundraising efforts, and his support has been instrumental in enabling the commencement of stage 1 of the new Sydney University Animal Medical Centre.

For the past two years, Dr Webster also has chaired the Veterinary Clinics Advisory Board for the Faculty. Dr Webster's business skills and his focus on both improving the clinics' business development and achieving the key academic outcomes of teaching and research are highly valued by the Faculty.

Dr Webster's support of The University of Sydney is only a part of his contribution to veterinary science, education and society at large. Dr Webster was a key player in commercial vaccine development in his father's company, Arthur Webster Pty Ltd. The vaccines produced by this respected Australian company made major contributions to the health and productivity of Australia's farm animal and poultry sectors and to the health of companion animals.

Dr Webster led the development of a vaccine to combat parvovirus, a serious and fatal new disease of dogs that appeared worldwide in the 1970s. His company's parvovirus vaccine was the first to be produced in the world and was distributed internationally. The Webster vaccine company, which was bought by a US multinational in 1993, had a history of successful collaboration with a number of Australian and international universities through product development.

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