

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa* A Citation

Dr the Honourable Sir David Kwok-po Li, GBM, GBS, OBE, LLD (Hon), DSocSc (Hon), DHumLitt (Hon), DBA (Hon), DSc (Hon), DLitt (Hon), MA, JP

Membership of a distinguished family may be a privilege but should also be a responsibility. Families will not continue to be distinguished unless each generation plays its part in adding to their reputation. The Li family has been most fortunate in this respect. Their position was established four generations ago by Li Shek-pang, who imported rice into Hong Kong from Vietnam; and consolidated by his son Li Koon-chun, who co-founded The Bank of East Asia in 1918. And coming to the present generation, we at The Chinese University of Hong Kong cannot help being aware that a member of the Li family – a former Secretary for Education and Manpower in the Hong Kong Government and a leading surgeon – has also been our Vice-Chancellor.

But our former leader also has an elder brother, whose professional career has been every bit as remarkable, involving both politics and education as well as his own chosen primary field of banking. It is that career and that elder brother we are here today to honour.

David Li was born in London just before the war. He was educated at St. Joseph's College in Hong Kong and then at Uppingham School in the UK, a school with a strong musical tradition and a belief in an all-round education. Li obviously learned its lessons well in both respects. At Selwyn College, Cambridge he studied Economics and Law, but also found time to contribute satirical sketches for the *Cambridge Footlights*. Noting that there were few social occasions for men and women to meet – most women attended women-only colleges – he assumed the role of impresario, by hiring the Corn Exchange as a Saturday night club and then arranging for his musician friends to perform. He thus became very popular, while he also made a handsome profit as an entrepreneur. This was early evidence of David Li's all-round talent for creating opportunities and bringing people together.

If you want creativity to flourish, you also have to be able to create the conditions, including the financial and institutional conditions, for it to do so. If you want a great bank to flourish, first you have to create the conditions in which it can flourish.

One of these conditions is that you must know the business inside out. No one in this audience would need to be reminded that David Li leads one of the most successful banks in the region, The Bank of East Asia. He has been Chief Executive of the Bank since 1981, and Chairman since 1997. That is a long time: but in fact his commitment to his family and to Hong Kong led him to return here from England and join the Bank much earlier, in 1969. Before returning, he had become a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. He had also become an expert in computerized banking systems. And that led to his first assignment at The Bank of East Asia – to transfer all client accounts to a central computer system. He has given

his whole professional career to the Bank, and he has made it what it is today because of that dedication.

From that base his achievements have broadened out into politics, public service and patronage of the arts and education. He was Vice-Chairman of the Basic Law Drafting Committee. He was an elected member of the Legislative Council representing the Finance constituency between 1985 and 2012, and was a member of the Executive Council from 2005 to 2008. Sir David was knighted in 2005 for his contributions to British education, and received the Grand Bauhinia Medal in 2007.

In fact, a short citation such as this simply does not have enough room to list all of Sir David's professional contributions. He holds many directorships of listed companies, including PCCW Limited, SCMP Group Limited and The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited; and he has served on the main boards or international advisory boards of many other companies including Avon Products Inc, Bank of Austria, Bank of Montreal, Campbell Soup Company, Caterpillar Inc, Credit Agricole, Daimler-Benz, Deutsche Bank, Dow Jones & Company, IBM, Rolls-Royce and Westinghouse Electric Corporation. He is Chairman of the Chinese Banks' Association Limited.

But alongside his role in top-level finance, Sir David has also represented and further dignified his family by his contributions in humanitarian and cultural fields. He has for decades been Chairman of the Executive Committee of St James' Settlement, which provides services to needy families, the elderly and the mentally handicapped in Hong Kong, and Chairman of the Advisory Board of The Salvation Army Hong Kong and Macau Command. His charitable work alone would occupy all the time of a less energetic man.

As well as that, Sir David is an active patron of the arts and of education. He is Chairman Emeritus of the Asian Youth Orchestra and Life Patron of the Hong Kong Ballet. He is still encouraging and promoting the arts just as effectively as he did when he hired the Corn Exchange in Cambridge all those years ago. And still thinking of Cambridge, he founded the Friends of Cambridge University in Hong Kong and, through its scholarship fund, the prestigious Prince Philip Scholarship Scheme sends top Hong Kong scholars to Cambridge every year. Since its founding in 1982, the Scheme has supported over 160 Hong Kong students to study at Cambridge, many of whom are now leading figures in government, the professions, academia and business. And I should add that as Pro-Chancellor of another University on the far side of Victoria Harbour he has considerable experience of awarding honorary degrees himself.

Sir David and his family have also had a long association with this University. Since 2010, he has been a member of the Committee of Overseers of S. H. Ho College. The college was founded in 2006, and is already a success story. As one of its distinguished group of honorary fellows, Sir David has played a key role in this new enterprise.

I began by mentioning previous generations of the Li family, but I am sure Sir David would regard his finest achievement as ensuring, together with his wife Penny, that yet another

generation of this remarkable family will continue his work of upholding and promoting all that is best about Hong Kong into the future.

For his outstanding list of contributions to Hong Kong and the wider world in business, politics, public service, humanitarian causes and arts and education, it gives me great pleasure, Mr Vice-Chancellor, to present to you Dr the Honourable Sir David Kwok-po Li for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.

This citation is written by Professor Simon Haines



Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa* A Citation

Professor Barry James Marshall, DSc(Hon), MD(Hon), MBBS, FRACP, Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine

This is a story with two introductions. The first one goes like this. Once upon a time there was a mischievous boy, growing up with his family initially in isolated desert towns in Western Australia in the 1950 and 60s. He advised his younger brother to jump out of a tree and the brother broke his arm. He was left in charge of his younger sister and when she drank some kerosene out of a milk bottle he was able to call the emergency number and she was saved – but he was the one who had left the bottle of kerosene in her reach. He repaired his father’s electric drill but accidentally swapped over the neutral and earth wires, and when his father tried to use it while standing on wet grass he almost went into orbit.

Not a naughty boy exactly then: more an inquisitive and ingenious experimenter, with his father’s talent for making things work. He built slingshots and bombs, a Morse code set, a hydrogen generator for balloons, guns and crystal sets; and despite the incident with the kerosene he was a responsible elder brother of whom his parents were proud.

His father was a highly respected mechanic, a fitter and turner, who outgrew those small towns, and his mother wanted her children to have all the benefits of a university education, so she eventually moved the family to Perth. When university came along the boy wanted to be an electrical engineer, as his earlier interests and his father’s career might have suggested. But unfortunately his mathematical ability wasn’t quite up to the demands of calculus, so he chose medicine instead. The boy’s name was Barry Marshall.

The second introduction might begin, once upon a time there was a gastric bug. Anyone who has experienced it can easily recall that persistent burning discomfort in the stomach cause by an actual or incipient peptic ulcer. Until the mid-1980s standard medical advice had always been to avoid spicy or acid foods, take an antacid tablet and try to reduce stress. This never worked for long. Many people suffered from ulcers all their lives, and even developed stomach cancer. But now after a simple course of antibiotics the problem is usually solved. The discovery that peptic ulcers are caused by a bacterium, the now-famous little organism called *Helicobacter pylori*, has been called the most significant in the history of gastroenterology; and it has other dimensions too, including in the fields of cancer research and immunology.

As with other truly game-changing scientific breakthroughs, however, this one initially met with almost universal resistance and scepticism in the scientific community. Science works by trying as hard as it can to disprove its own hypotheses, and sometimes this can make it hard for even the best discoveries to find widespread acceptance. After three years, from 1981 to 1984, the two scientists who discovered *Helicobacter pylori* were frustrated. They had to do something to convince the community. Experiments with animal models were not working.

This is where the two introductions to our story connect. Only that mischievous and ingenious boy who nearly killed his brother to see what happened if you fell out of a tree, saved his sister from poisoning herself with something she shouldn't have drunk, and electrocuted his own father when trying to help him with his equipment, could have had the idea of experimenting on himself to prove his medical hypothesis, and thus save so many from chronic pain and even the risk of death. Barry Marshall was one of those two scientists, and his fame was assured when he decided to use himself as the animal subject of his experiment. As he says in his own autobiography, he did not discuss this first with his wife, as he usually did with his work, because “this was one of those occasions when it would be easier to get forgiveness than permission”. After performing a baseline endoscopy he drank the contents of a culture dish and infected himself with the *Helicobacter pylori*, becoming very ill shortly afterwards, but then curing himself two weeks later.

This was far from the end of the story as far as publicizing the research and convincing the community was concerned, but it was the single most crucial turning-point. The journalists were intrigued, and their stories were followed by contacts from hundreds of patients who read the story and asked him to treat them. Then came the backing from Proctor and Gamble, and more work from a research laboratory at the University of Virginia, where Professor Marshall stayed for ten years. During that time many more stories were run in the press and on television; the BBC show “Ulcer Wars” is still being shown around the world and is now free to see on YouTube. Finally in 1994 the National Institutes of Health in the United States made a public statement that “the key to treatment of duodenal and gastric ulcer is the detection and eradication of *Helicobacter Pylori*”. In the same year the World Health Organization accepted that *Helicobacter Pylori* is a causative factor in stomach cancer. That adventurous boy’s hypothesis and experiment had been officially accepted at last. His discovery has been compared to the development of the polio vaccine and the eradication of smallpox.

Professor Marshall returned to Perth soon after, and he still lives there with his wife. They have four children and five grandchildren. In 1999 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science; in 2008 he was elected as a Foreign Member of the US National Academy of Science. He is also a Foreign Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. He was made a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2007. And in 2005 Barry J. Marshall and J. Robin Warren were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discovery of “the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease”.

For his unique and historic contribution to human health, it gives me great pleasure, Mr Vice-Chancellor, to present to you Professor Barry James Marshall, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa* A Citation

Dr the Honourable Elsie Tu, GBM, CBE, DCL (Hon), LLD (Hon), DSSc (Hon), BA, DThPT

The poem *Crane Cries*, found in the chapter of *Lesser Court Hymns* of the *Classic of Poetry*, states that “the stones of one hill, may be made into grind-stones for the gems of another mountain”, suggesting that talents from other countries could still serve our country all the same. Hong Kong is a place where Chinese and foreigners blend in together, where East meets West. Over the past century, with the contribution of expatriates, Hong Kong has displayed a bright and colorful cultural landscape, and has become a major metropolis of the world. Some of the expatriates were benevolent, moral and wise. They disregarded their differences in nationality and culture, and took care of the underprivileged, willing to become grind-stones of another mountain. They contributed their all to the grassroots of Hong Kong, devoted their lives to educate disadvantaged students, and when they reached their later years, they were pleased to see the students become gems.

Dr Elsie Tu was born into a working class family in Newcastle-upon Tyne, England in June 1913, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Durham. She went on a missionary journey with her first husband William to China, and arrived in Hong Kong in 1951. She created an immediate and unbreakable bond with Hong Kong upon her arrival, and has stood by Hong Kong people for 62 years. Dr Tu is a famous pioneer of social movements in Hong Kong. She was a member of the Urban Council from 1963 to 1995, and became a member of the Legislative Council from 1988 to 1995. She was also appointed as a member of the Provisional Legislative Council from 1997 to 1998. Dr Tu was committed to upholding social justice, dared to speak out, fought for the rights of the disadvantaged, and was loved by the working people. She felt that society was corrupt during the 1960s, and wrote articles as well as accepted interviews from the media to castigate the colonial government at that time for its mis-governance, and attacked government officials for their corruption. When she was a member of the Urban Council and the Legislative Council, she frequently stood up against the colonial government, forcing the government to confront its own corruption problems. The government eventually established the Independent Commission Against Corruption in 1974 to eradicate corruption. Since then, Hong Kong has been internationally renowned for its clean politics, and is known as one of the most incorruptible cities in the world. This attribute has become a core value most cherished by Hong Kong people. Towards this, Dr Tu should be commended for her persistent efforts in admonishing the government over its corruption problems.

Dr Tu was disgusted by the corruption in society. In order to improve the social environment and people’s livelihood, she knew deep in her heart that education was the starting point for improving the living conditions of the underprivileged. She therefore established the Mu Kuang English School in the squatter area of Kai Yip Estate in Kwun Tong in 1955, and taught under tents abandoned by the British military, providing the children from the grassroots an opportunity to receive education. She is a person with a strong personality, and is always deeply concerned with social hardship. The school’s motto “*Sapientia et Lux*” encourages students to learn and be reasonable,

and create a promising society through the pursuit of knowledge. Part of the lyrics of Mu Kuang's school song says "the society is promising because of education", and this reflects Dr Tu's philosophy on education. Since Mu Kuang was established, Dr Tu worked with a hands-on attitude. For nearly 60 years, she taught by her words and by example, and her teachings have nurtured and inspired numerous underprivileged students into becoming successful members of society. Dr Tu still serves as the Supervisor of Mu Kuang English School, and lives in the school as her home. All employment contracts of the school are personally signed by her. Although she now needs to use a wheelchair, and has a hearing problem in her right ear, she still gets excited whenever she talks about the school's development. Dr Tu still contributes on ways to subsidize underprivileged students. "There are currently 1,300 students here, and half of them are from low-income families. If students have financial problems and can't afford to pay for the fees of extracurricular activities and school trips, we will provide additional subsidies, and the list of all students under subsidies is classified." On Dr Tu's 100th birthday in 2013, the alumni of Mu Kuang established the "Elsie Tu Education Fund", in order to continue Dr Tu's spirit of lifelong service to the public, to subsidize local education, and to contribute back to society.

Residing in Hong Kong for more than 50 years, Dr Elsie Tu can speak Putonghua and Cantonese fluently, and as a foreigner she was joined in marriage with a Chinese. Elsie Tu met Andrew Tu in church. They shared the same passion for education, and were both willing to serve the general public. They shared the same dream and the same mind. They got married in 1985, and that is when she began using her husband's family name. Mr Tu died of cancer in 2001. When recalling the life of her husband, Dr Tu once said, "Until today, Andrew Tu is the only person I met who shared a similar dream with me, and the love I have for him has never changed during the past 25 years... I have learned much from him, even more than when I was at school or became a teacher. I taught him English, and he taught me Chinese, and I realized talking to him is just like talking to my father and brother back home...Tu helped me revive my dream I had when I was young, before I was constrained by doctrines." From this, one can see the couple shared the same mind, and were deeply in love with each other. After Mr Tu passed away, Dr Tu devoted herself to writing. She published *Colonial Hong Kong in the Eyes of Elsie Tu*, in which she used her consistently outspoken style to review the darker times of the past. In her new book *Shouting at the Mountain*, she recalls her love story with Mr Andrew Tu, and it was described as "Hong Kong's most heartwarming love story book" by the South China Morning Post.

Dr Tu has selflessly committed her life to serving the general public. She was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award, often called Asia's Nobel Prize, by the Philippine government in 1976. She was made a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1977, and was awarded numerous honorary doctorates by various Hong Kong and British universities, including The University of Hong Kong (1988), the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong (now the Open University of Hong Kong, 1994), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (1994), the University of Durham (1996), and the University of Newcastle (1996). After the handover of Hong Kong to China, Dr Tu was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal by the HKSAR government in 1997 to commend her contribution and service to the grassroots of Hong Kong. In 2010, she was chosen as one of the ten "Hong Kong Loving Hearts".

Dr Elsie Tu has dedicated her life to taking care of the grassroots, to promoting education and fostering talents, and she has pushed society forward. Her achievements have been outstanding, and she has made immense contributions to Hong Kong. Her passion towards the grassroots has long gone beyond the limits of race, nationality, geographical boundaries and language, and she has successfully contributed to a more caring and inclusive society. Please allow us to commend this sincere friendship that spans two centuries. Mr Vice-Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you Dr the Honourable Elsie Tu for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* A Citation

The Honourable Wong Yan-lung, GBM, LLD (Hon), BA, LLM, SC, JP

An advocate of the rule of law, the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle once said, "It is more proper that law should govern than any one of the citizens." His insistence that no man, not even a ruler, is above the law gave rise to the concept of the law having inherent authority. Since the handover in 1997, the rule of law has become a cornerstone of Hong Kong's political system, and one of its core social values. The Secretary for Justice, as the chief legal advisor of the Chief Executive and the Hong Kong government, assumes the responsibility of criminal prosecution, and is committed to protecting public interests and human rights. He is the embodiment of Hong Kong's rule of law, a role model for the city's legal professionals. This individual shoulders great responsibility, and must be both courageous enough to tackle challenges and capable of contributing to the social good. He must have outstanding legal qualifications and sincere affection for the people of Hong Kong.

Mr Wong Yan-lung is a native of Chaozhou, Guangdong Province. The eldest son in the family, he was born in October 1963 to Mr Wong Kam-lit, a hawker of ice-cream and soft drinks in Wan Chai. As an honest man who refused to gamble or borrow money, Mr Wong Senior led an austere life and used his meagre earnings to support his family. Though they were poor, they were happy, and the children's education was not neglected. As the eldest son, Mr Wong understood his father's hopes and expectations and worked hard at school to meet them. When school was out, he helped his father peddle in the street without complaint.

Hardworking and intelligent, Mr Wong excelled at his studies. He entered the famed Queen's College with outstanding examination results. Mr Wong was a high achiever, earning scholarships year after year and being chosen as the school's head prefect. He performed particularly well in the subjects of arts. With his quick wit and eloquence, Mr Wong was also a frequent and renowned participant in the school's debate competitions. Though young, he harboured lofty ambitions. One of his articles published in a Queen's College journal reflected his discontent and regret over the public's lack of sense of belonging in the wake of the handover. To help improve the lot of the lower class and protect people as a whole, Mr Wong selected the arts stream for his high school studies, paving the way to his study of law in university. Queen's College was at the time known for its science subjects, which most top students selected, and thus his choice was a concern for the school. Nevertheless, Mr Wong stood firm in his decision, in spite of the advice of the principal. He scored 7 A's in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination, 3 A's and 1 B in the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination, qualifying for a Prince Phillip Scholarship to the school of law at Magdalene College in the University of Cambridge. At this, one of the world's most prestigious universities, studying beside outstanding students from around the world, he had to put in extra effort. Mr Wong persevered with only his memory of what he heard in lectures and diligent library study, graduating from Cambridge with a BA in Law and an MA in Law with flying colours. He was called to the Bar in England and in Hong Kong both in 1987, and in 2002, at the young age of 38, he was appointed Senior Counsel. He was elected a Master of the Bench of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in 2007, and was

conferred an Honorary Fellowship by Magdalene College in 2009. His successes in both the academic and professional fields have been truly remarkable.

A renowned Confucian quote says, "A noble man enlightens people and shapes customs by first educating the people." Through education, the saying explains, an individual can better contribute to society by educating others and serving as a moral example. When he completed his studies in England, Mr Wong's vision of serving society by standing for the people and impartially upholding the law led him to return to Hong Kong and became a pupil to Mr Andrew Li Kwok-nang, who later became the city's Chief Justice. Mr Wong sat as a Deputy High Court Judge of the Court of First Instance, and served as the Chairman of the Special Committee on Legal Education of the Hong Kong Bar Association. On 17 October 2005, former Secretary for Justice Elsie Leung Oi-sie resigned, and Mr Wong was approached by the government to succeed her. Modest as always, Mr Wong gave the offer serious consideration and finally accepted on the grounds that the position will allow him to uphold the rule of law and maintain social justice. He became the youngest person in Hong Kong's history to take on this post. The news was well received by the public, the media thoroughly covered the story of his rise through hard work, dubbing it 'the story of Hong Kong'.

Following the Reunification in 1997, Hong Kong has operated under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems", a policy of high autonomy based on the Basic Law. However, under Article 158 (Paragraph 1) of the Basic Law, the power of interpretation of the Basic Law is vested in the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (SCNPC).

On 15 May 2008, FG Hemisphere Associates LLC brought an action in the Hong Kong courts against the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Congo) in an effort to enforce arbitration awards regarding a debt owed by the government of the Congo. Hong Kong's Courts of First Instance granted the plaintiff the relief sought against the Congo. On 7 July 2008, the Congolese government requested the court to reserve the ruling, arguing that the Congo had immunity as a state and the Hong Kong courts had no jurisdiction over a sovereign country. There were heated debates between the plaintiff and defendant on whether absolute immunity applied under Hong Kong's common law system after the handover. It was a see-saw battle and the result would have significant impact. If it was not handled properly, it might weaken people's confidence in the rule of law of Hong Kong. Mr Wong was cautious in handling the case as Intervener. On the one hand, he had to respect the independence of Hong Kong's judiciary, but on the other, the issue involved sovereignty matters. The case thus posed a tough challenge as to how the new constitutional order under the Basic Law should be observed. On 8 June 2011, the Court of Final Appeal handed down the provisional ruling, a 3-2 decision in favour of the defendant. It said, "Subject to the Standing Committee's interpretation of the provisions concerned, we make the following Orders, namely:...That it be declared and a Declaration granted that the HKSAR courts have no jurisdiction over the 1st defendant in the present proceedings." In accordance with the Basic Law, the ruling was subsequently submitted to the SCNPC. On 26 August 2011, the SCNPC reaffirmed the ruling of the Court of Final Appeal in its statement of interpretation. It was a win-win result for all sides: the handling and the development of the case demonstrated respect for the principle of judicial independence for Hong Kong's Court of

Final Appeal while also reaffirming the SCNPC's status to interpret the Basic Law. Moreover, the case had reinforced the understanding and trust between the authorities of the Mainland and the judiciary of Hong Kong. On the day that the Court of Final Appeal announced the ruling, nothing changed in the city - not the landscapes of Victoria Harbour. Certainly not the low-key style of Mr Wong, who took no credit for the decision.

During his tenure as Hong Kong's Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong dedicated himself to strengthening ties with overseas bodies providing legal services. He convinced the Hague Conference on Private International Law to set up its Asia Pacific Regional Office in Hong Kong, a move hailed as an endorsement of Hong Kong's position in legal service. Mr Wong also led a team of representatives from various professions to promote the versatile functions of mediation and arbitration, and initiated the enactment of the new Mediation Ordinance, successfully elevating the city's international status as a dispute resolution centre.

An accomplished member of society's elite but born among its poor, Mr Wong did not fail to give back to the underprivileged. In 1991, he joined the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association, a charitable group founded by Christians, happily visiting the homeless, chatting with them and even helping them shave. In 1996, he wed fellow Cambridge graduate, Esther Chan, and the couple donated all of their wedding gift money - hundreds of thousands of dollars - to the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association, in an illustration of their generosity and goodwill. Mr Wong also contributed significantly to tackling drug problems among young people, even leading a high-level task force on youth drug abuse and helping to establish relevant policies in the prevention of juvenile drug abuse. He has also expressed his concern about the problems facing young people from low-income families, and encourages them to make a determined effort to strive and excel in adversity, as he did.

Today, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, we should be proud of Mr Wong, who was born in the same month and year of the University. From humble beginnings, Mr Wong achieved success through hard work and dedication. He was not afraid to shoulder responsibilities and make contributions. In his seven-year tenure as Secretary for Justice, he contributed significantly to the implementation of the Basic Law and protection of rule of law in the city. His success story sets an example and has an inspiring, far-reaching effect for all Hong Kong people, particularly for the poor and for hardworking students. Mr Vice-Chancellor, I have the great honour of presenting to you The Honourable Wong Yan-lung for the award of the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa* A Citation

Professor Zhong Nanshan, MD(Hon), FRCS, FRCP, MD

As a great medical practitioner, he marshalled the fight against a lethal epidemic. He demonstrates not only miraculous skills but also a kind heart towards patients and enthusiasm in passing the torch. In his remarkable achievements, he is an inspiration to his fellow countrymen. This South Mountain (Nanshan) of Guangdong has dwarfed the famous Five Great Mountains of China - his contributions to medicine would put even the legendary doctor Bian Que to shame!

Professor Zhong Nanshan is the leader of medical science in Guangdong and an advocate of clinical and technological research. Between 1992 and 2002, he was the President of Guangzhou Medical College, as well as an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering from 1996. He is currently Professor of Medicine at Guangzhou Medical University, Director of the State Key Laboratory of Respiratory Disease and Director of the State Clinical Research Centre of Respiratory Disease.

A native of Xiamen, Fujian Province, Professor Zhong was born in Nanjing in 1936 before the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war. His father, Mr Zhong Shifan, was a professor at the Sun Yat-sen University of Medical Science, and both of his parents studied abroad. Under their influence, Professor Zhong Nanshan developed a keen interest in medicine at an early age. He studied in Peking University Medical School in 1955 and graduated in 1960. His graduation coincided with dramatic political and social changes, prompting him to take part in a variety of activities while practising medicine. Of this time, he said, "I've been a farmer, a worker in the propaganda team, a worker in the kitchen, and an editor for the medical journal of Peking University... I've done everything." These hardships and unusual experiences turned out to be a blessing in disguise, becoming the motivation behind his exceptional career of medical practice, teaching and research.

In 1971, Professor Zhong went back to Guangzhou, embarking on medical and scientific research that would eventually turn him into an expert in respiratory diseases. Between 1979 and 1981, he studied at the medical schools of Edinburgh University and London University to hone his respiratory studies and research. During the time, his passion for research and his determination, as well as his relentless pursuit of the truth through experimentation, impressed all around him, including his British tutors, fellow researchers and friends.

When he returned to China, Professor Zhong decided to devote himself to clinical practice, teaching and the scientific research of respiratory diseases. He spearheaded a number of highly successful scientific research projects, including the "973 Programme", the "863 Programme", Key Science and Technology Programs in the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Five-year Plans, and several key programmes under the National Natural Science Foundation. To date, he has published over 50 papers in reputable international journals, including *Nature Medicine*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *British Medical Journal*, and *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. In 2008, his paper in the *Lancet* on the effect of carbocysteine on acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive

pulmonary disease won him critical acclaim on the international medical scene. He has also published more than 200 papers in state-level journals, cementing his status as a leading figure in the field of respiratory medicine in China. He has 16 books and nine patents to his name, in addition to over 20 technological achievement awards, including the State Scientific and Technological Progress Award second-class and third-class, First Prize in the Guangdong Science and Technology Awards, the Ho Leung Ho Lee Award and the Wu Yang Award for Special Contributions. He was also conferred an honorary doctorate by the University of Edinburgh and the University of Birmingham in 2007 and 2011 respectively.

Professor Zhong is best known for his contribution in leading the Chinese medical team to combat SARS in 2003. Ten years ago this spring, this deadly virus of unknown origin ravaged China and held Hong Kong under siege. Without an effective cure, the disease spread quickly over a broad area. The threat of death swept through Hong Kong, mainland China and beyond, putting people all over the world in a state of fear and panic. Men of science rose to the occasion to fight the disease. Hong Kong is proud of the “SARS Hero” Professor Joseph Sung; in mainland China, Professor Zhong was dubbed the “Foremost Contributor against SARS.” He proposed the “three early and three proper” - early diagnosis, early quarantine, and early treatment. The results were extraordinary. Many were dragged back from the brink of death. Society praised Professor Zhong for his bravery in putting his own life on the line during the crisis. Professor Zhong laughed this off. “This is our job - if we don’t do it, who will?” Under the leadership of Professor Zhong and his medical team, Guangdong Province achieved two bests in the country: the lowest SARS mortality rate and the highest cure rate. In June 2003, Guangdong Province hosted an event to recognise the heroes of the fight against SARS, and Professor Zhong was the only recipient of the Top Merit award. In the same year, he was made a National May Day Labor Medalist, awarded the Bethune Medal and cited as one of the “People Who Moved China” 2003. In 2009 and this very year, he was again at the medical frontline, leading a team in the fight against H1N1 and H7N9 diseases. Though 77 years old, he led by example and showed no signs of weariness.

In addition to his outstanding achievements in medical practice, scientific research and efforts against epidemics, Professor Zhong is a tremendous teacher and professor with high moral standards, and has won the Best Teaching Award in Guangdong for a number of years in a row. He won the Huayuan Medical Ethics Award in 2003. He was awarded in 2007 the National Moral Models, and in 2009 the higher education Teaching Masters Award and the National Award for Achievements in Teaching. In teaching his students, he stresses the importance of medical ethics, which he summarises as “finding the best possible ways to solve patients’ difficulties.” His “Nanshan-style” focuses on dedication, exploration, research and cooperation. As a doctor, professor and scientific researcher, he dedicates his efforts to serving society and speaking out against injustice, while staying innovative, professional and independent.

Professor Zhong worked closely with the Faculty of Medicine of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, especially in the areas of SARS prevention and control, as well as in researching drug resistant tuberculosis. He was the Sir Run Run Shaw Distinguished Visiting Scholar of Shaw College, CUHK, and discussed his experience in combating SARS with our fellow colleagues and students.

Professor Zhong shares CUHK's educational philosophy and is a keen supporter of the University's development in mainland China. In 2009, CUHK began exploring the possibility of a campus in Shenzhen, hoping to take the institution's core educational philosophy and values to the mainland. In March 2013, a final agreement was signed with the Shenzhen Municipal Government and Shenzhen University. The Governing Board of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen was also founded, with Professor Zhong as a member, which will help to lead the University towards a fruitful future.

Mr Vice-Chancellor, in recognition of Professor Zhong's contributions to the fight against SARS, and his illustrious achievements in the advancement of medical science, technological research and education, I have the great honour of presenting to you Professor Zhong Nanshan for the award of the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.