**Flinders University**

**Citation for the Award of the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa***

**Emeritus Professor Peter Mudge AM, MBBS, FRACGP, FAFPHM**

Professor Mudge is regarded as the doyen of Australian general practice research. He has been responsible for teaching generations of medical students and primary health care researchers throughout his career, and has been a mentor and source of wisdom and support to many of this nation’s current medical leaders.

Professor Mudge was president of the Australian Association for Academic General Practice for several years, providing advice to the Australian Government on the development of research in general practice and primary health care. He has been an advisor to the National Health and Medical Research Council on primary health care research and led a major review of primary health care research in Australia for the Australian Government, known as The *Mudge Report*. This report led to substantial new investment in primary care research and funding for general practitioners and other primary care providers to gain experience as researchers and attain Masters and PhD level qualifications at universities around Australia.

Professor Mudge’s career as a general practitioner, medical researcher and medical leader spans five decades. Born in Geelong, he grew up in rural South Australia in Mount Gambier. After graduating from The University of Adelaide in 1961, he worked as a junior doctor in Adelaide and Darwin, then settled with his family in the Riverland region of South Australia, in Berri, where he worked for many years as a rural general practitioner. Professor Mudge was one of the original pioneer researchers on Ross River Virus during this time, establishing the epidemiology of this serious disease through his observations as a general practitioner and researcher. His pioneering research work was recognised by the award of the Faulding Prize for Research in 1982.

As a result of his growing reputation as a researcher and educator, Professor Mudge was invited to become a lecturer in the Department of General Practice at the University of Dundee in Scotland and then, in 1974, he returned to Australia and worked as a part-time lecturer in the Department of Primary Care in the School of Medicine at Flinders University. He then moved to Tasmania as an academic in the Faculty of Medicine at The University of Hobart.

In 1988 he moved to Brisbane to take up the second only Chair of General Practice in Australia, based at the University of Queensland, where he was also appointed as Head of the Social and Preventive Medicine Department.

In 1994 he was appointed as the Foundation Clinical School Dean of the North Queensland Clinical School of the University of Queensland. Professor Mudge’s work in Townsville led to the eventual establishment of the James Cook University School of Medicine. In 1998, he returned to Tasmania as Professor of General Practice at the University of Tasmania, where he worked until his retirement. He was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor of General Practice at the University of Queensland.

Throughout his academic career, Professor Mudge always made time to keep up his clinical work, despite busy teaching and research commitments, providing excellent care to his patients and his local community as a general practitioner.

Since his formal retirement as an academic, Professor Mudge has continued to provide great voluntary service to the community, particularly through his work with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). In 2002, Professor Mudge joined the governing body of the RACGP, the Council, as the representative from Tasmania which he then went on to Chair from 2003 to 2010. In this key voluntary leadership role in Australian medicine, he played a significant role in building the RACGP into an organisation that advocates effectively with the Australian Government for access to high quality general practice for all Australians. During this time he also served as Chair of the Tasmanian Faculty of the RACGP, working with the Tasmanian Government, the Tasmanian Health Department, and with local general practitioners and primary health care organisations, on ways to improve the quality and safety of health care being provided to the people of Tasmania through general practice.

Since stepping down from his role with the RACGP Council, Professor Mudge has served as Chair of the RACGP Foundation, which raises funds to support general practice research and general practice education, with a special focus on supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students and young doctors. He has also served in recent years in another voluntary role as the Chair of the RACGP National Research Awards Committee, which develops policy for primary health care research and oversees the annual adjudication of applications for funding for research projects involving general practice. Professor Mudge has recently been appointed as the Patron of the RACGP Foundation, in recognition of his inspirational leadership.

Professor Mudge's extraordinary career has been recognised by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners through the Rose Hunt Award, the RACGP's most prestigious award, and by bestowing Life Fellowship, an honour reserved for the College's most senior and respected members. His significant service to medicine through contributions to professional organisations, to research and tertiary education, and to the community was recognised in 2016 by the award of Member of the Order of Australia.

The RACGP has also established the Peter Mudge Medal which is an annual award established to honour his work and commitment in general practice and primary care research. This national medal is awarded annually at the RACGP Annual Conference to recognise those who have advanced the discipline of general practice and the goals of the College, and whose original research has had the most potential to significantly influence daily general practice in Australia.

Emeritus Professor Mudge is a man of strong character who has demonstrated over and again his strong commitment to public service and humanity.

The award of the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* recognises his service to the people of Australia through research and medical education and voluntary medical leadership.