

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, *honoris causa*

Professor the Honourable Tsui Lap-chee, GBM, GBS, JP

Mr Pro-Chancellor,

Everyone would agree that Professor Tsui Lap-chee is one of the world's top scientists in Genomics. His contributions to society are way beyond science or medicine. If one would describe him as an artist or a painter, his canvases definitely include the laboratory, the university, and the communities he lives in.

Professor Tsui was born in 1950 in Shanghai and his family moved to Hong Kong when he was three years of age. He went to Ho Man Tin Government Secondary School, which is slightly more than a stone's throw from our new campus on Sheung Shing Street. He studied Biology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and was awarded a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Philosophy in 1972 and 1974 respectively. Completed with his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh in 1979, he was a post-doctoral Fellow at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the state of Tennessee until 1981. He then joined the Department of Genetics of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. The rest, as they say, is history.

In 1989, he identified the defective gene responsible for a genetic disease called cystic fibrosis. The finding was one of the most important breakthroughs in human genetics in the past 50 years. Professor Tsui also made major contributions to the study of the human genome, particularly the characterization of chromosome 7, and, the identification of additional disease genes. He was the Geneticist-in-Chief at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Head of the Genetics and Genomic Biology Program of the Research Institute, and co-founder of The Centre for Applied Genomics. He was also the holder of the H.E. Sellers Chair in Cystic Fibrosis and University Professor at the University of Toronto. He was the President of Human Genome Organisation (HUGO).

After being a top scientist and scholar for over 20 years, Professor Tsui took on another challenge in 2002 and returned to the city in which he grew up. He became the 14th Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Now higher education became his new canvas. Despite his heavy administrative duties, he still managed to engage in research. For example, he assisted the remarkable achievement of the HKU team who successfully isolated the SARS coronavirus, eliminating one of the greatest public health crises in Hong Kong history; he also led a joint-university effort in the region's contribution to the mapping of the human genome in the HapMap project. Under the 12 years of his leadership, HKU became a world-class university. During his tenure, he raised over HK\$10 billion of funds for HKU, including the establishment of close to 100 endowed professorships. This model of sponsorship has brought HKU's research to another level and the research outputs will have a long-lasting influence on society.

Professor Tsui's involvement in communities he lives in started back in the 1980s. He was the trustee of the Education Foundation of Chinese Canadian Professionals in Ontario from 1987 to 1993 and the co-Chair of the Mon Sheong Foundation Chinese School in Toronto from 1999 to 2003, just to name a few. After taking the University of Hong Kong to new heights and handing over the helm to his successor in 2014, he dedicated his time and effort to the betterment of Hong Kong, especially through the establishment of the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong. He has taken the lead in promoting science and technology education. We have seen an increase in public awareness of science and mathematics education among schools in Hong Kong. Recently, Professor Tsui also led a Task Force to review research policy and funding with the aim of enhancing Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness as well as propelling Hong Kong's development into an international innovation and technology hub.

Professor Tsui is currently President of the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong, President of the Victor and William Fung Foundation, Director of Zhejiang University's Qiushi Academy for Advanced Studies and Residential College of its International Campus, and a member of the Board of Governors of Chu Hai College of Higher Education. He has served on the editorial boards for over 20 international peer-reviewed scientific journals, numerous scientific review panels, and many regional and international advisory committees, including the Medical Research Council of Canada, Canadian Genome Research Task Force Committee, Scientific Steering Committee of the National Institute of Biological Science, Scientific Advisory Committee of the China National Center for Biotechnology

Development and Human Genome Organisation. He is currently a member of the Chief Executive's Council of Advisors on Innovation and Strategic Development of the Hong Kong SAR Government.

Professor Tsui's achievements have been well recognized. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Fellow of the Royal Society of London, and a Fellow of Academia Sinica. He is also an Honorary Fellow of the World Innovation Foundation, Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), Foreign Member of Chinese Academy of Science, Honorary Fellow of Royal College of Physicians (UK), and Laureate of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. In addition to many national and international prizes, including the Killam Prize by the Canada Council for the Arts, Gairdner International Award, Elliott Cresson Medal of Franklin Institute, and Mead Johnson Award, he was awarded honorary doctoral degrees by University of King's College, University of New Brunswick, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, St. Francis Xavier University, York University, Tel Aviv University, University of Toronto, University of Aberdeen, King's College London, University of Edinburgh, Fudan University, Western University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of Macau, and the University of Hong Kong. Professor Tsui was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star and the Grand Bauhinia Medal by the Hong Kong SAR Government in 2011 and 2016, respectively.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, in recognition of Professor Tsui's tremendous contributions in the areas of science and education, his commitment to public service and his exemplary citizenship, may I invite our President to present Professor the Honourable Tsui Lap-chee for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

Citation written and to be delivered by Professor Reggie Kwan Ching-ping

榮譽社會科學博士學位

徐立之教授

副校監先生：

眾所週知，徐立之教授為全球頂尖的分子遺傳學家，而他對社會的貢獻遠遠不止於科學或醫學領域。如果將其描述為畫家或藝術家，他的畫布肯定包括大學、實驗室以至其居住的社區。

徐教授一九五零年生於上海，三歲時舉家遷居香港。他其後入讀何文田官立中學，而該校距離公開大學常盛街的新校舍只有咫尺之遙。中學畢業後，他於香港中文大學攻讀生物學，並分別在一九七二年及一九七四年獲授理學士及哲學碩士學位。徐立之教授後負笈美國匹茲堡大學，在一九七九年獲頒哲學博士學位。畢業後的兩年間，他於美國田納西州橡樹嶺國家實驗室當博士後研究員。一九八一年，他加入加拿大多倫多病童醫院積極從事研究，而徐教授後來的驕人成就則人所共知，無庸贅述。

在一九八九年，徐教授確定了導致囊狀纖維症此一遺傳性疾病的缺陷基因。這項發現是過去五十年來人類遺傳學最關鍵的突破之一。此外，他對人類基因組研究亦作出了重要貢獻，特別是第七條染色體的基因排列，以及其他疾病基因的鑑定。他曾任加拿大多倫多病童醫院研究所首席遺傳學家以及遺傳學和基因組生物學研究所所長。徐教授同時曾為多倫多大學的大學教授及 H.E. Sellers 囊狀纖維症講座教授，以及國際人類基因組組織主席。

在積極投入學者和科學家工作逾二十載後，徐教授在二零零二年接受另一挑戰，那就是回到香港這個他成長的地方，出任香港大學第十四任校長。自此，高等教育成了他的新畫布、新領域。任內儘管行政職責相當繁重，他仍努力騰空從事研究工作。例如，他協助香港大學的研究團隊成功分離出 SARS 冠狀病毒，有效化解了香港歷史上最嚴重的一次衛生危機。此外，徐教授亦曾領導區內多所大學，為國際人類基因組單體型圖計劃 HapMap 奠定了堅實基礎。在其出任校長的十二年間，香港大學躍身為世

界一流大學。港大所籌集的善款超過一百億港元，包括創立近一百個冠名教授職位。此一捐助模式將香港大學的研究提升到另一層次，相關的研究成果對社會影響深遠。

徐教授參與社區工作始於上世紀八十年代。例如，他在一九八七年至一九九三年期間擔任安大略省加拿大中國專業人士教育基金會的受託人，並於一九九九年至二零零三年出任多倫多孟嘗會中文學校的聯合主席。二零一四年，徐教授將領導港大的重任轉交繼任者後，便獻出所有時間和精力，積極投入改善香港的福祉，特別是領導建立港科院。此外，他亦是推動科技教育的先行者。由於徐教授的努力，香港學生以至公眾對科學和數學教育認識的提高，均有目共睹。最近，徐教授亦出任教資會檢討研究政策及資助專責小組主席，率領研究政策和撥款的檢討，以提升本地的長遠競爭力，並進一步推動香港發展成為國際創新科技中心。

徐教授現時擔任港科院院長、經綸慈善基金理事長、浙江大學求是高等研究院院長及其國際校區書院首任院長，以及珠海學院校董會委員。他曾擔任二十多本國際同行評審科學期刊的編輯委員會成員，以及眾多科學評審小組與區域和國際諮詢委員會的成員，包括加拿大醫學研究委員會、加拿大基因組研究工作小組委員會、北京生命科學研究所科學指導委員會成員、中國國家生物技術發展中心及國際人類基因組組織科學諮詢委員會成員。此外，他目前是香港特區政府行政長官創新及策略發展顧問團成員。

徐教授多年來獲得無數獎項及榮譽，當中包括加拿大皇家學會院士、倫敦皇家學會院士和台灣中央研究院院士，以及國際創新基金會榮譽院士、美國國家科學院外籍院士、中國科學院外籍院士、英國皇家內科醫學院榮譽院士，並榮登加拿大醫學殿堂榜。他曾獲頒加拿大文化藝術理事會基廉獎、加拿大蓋爾德納國際獎、美國富蘭克林研究所頒發的克瑞森獎章，以及美國兒科研究學會美贊臣獎。此外，多所大學亦曾向徐教授頒發榮譽博士學位，包括國王學院大學、新布倫瑞克大學、香港中文大學、聖弗朗西斯澤維爾大學、約克大學、特拉維夫大學、多倫多大學、阿伯丁大學、倫敦國王學院、愛丁堡大學、復旦大學、西安大略大學、香港科技大學、澳門大學以及香港大學。徐教授於二零一一年及二零一六年分別獲授特區政府金紫荊星章和大紫荊勳章。

副校監先生，徐教授對科學及教育事業建樹良多，多年來一直對公共事務盡心盡力，堪稱我們眾人的楷模。在此本人謹恭請校長引介徐立之教授接受本校的榮譽社會科學博士學位。

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英文贊辭由關清平教授撰寫及宣讀