

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

Citation for Award of Companion of the University

Professor David Wattchow BMBS, PhD *Flin*, FRACS

Professor David Wattchow is an outstanding South Australian. A foundation alumnus of the School of Medicine, he is now recognised internationally as an expert in the treatment of complex cancers of the distal colon.

He has provided sustained leadership of the FMC Clinician's Special Purpose Fund, and in that role has been influential in that Fund donating over two million dollars to the University to support research in neuroscience and cancer. He has also made significant personal donations to the University to support PhD scholarships and Fellowships. This support has been instrumental in the creation of the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer and in attracting other high quality researchers to Flinders.

To this end, he has donated significant funding to support scholarships for research students and has been active in recruiting significant new researchers to join the University. His sustained advocacy has been a key enabler of the successful 40 year partnership between the University and Flinders Medical Centre.

Professor Wattchow graduated with Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery from Flinders University in 1980 with prizes in Ophthalmology, Medicine, Surgery, Primary Care and Community Medicine. He was awarded the University Medal. He received his PhD from Flinders University in 1989 and became a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons in 1990, joining the staff of Flinders Medical Centre as a consultant surgeon with Academic Status at Flinders University. He was appointed Head of Colorectal Surgery in 1996. In 2008 he was awarded academic status at Flinders University as a Professor and became Clinical Director of Gastrointestinal Surgery at Flinders Medical Centre.

Professor Wattchow has taught into the University's MD course and supervised PhD students since joining FMC as a consultant surgeon. He is an outstanding clinical researcher, having been author of 75 peer reviewed publications, two book Chapters, 60 published abstracts, 147 unpublished meeting presentations, 61 invited lectures both in Australia and overseas, supervisor of 7 higher degree students, and reviewer for 10 granting bodies and 6 medical journals. He has been a recipient of 32 research grants.

Professor Wattchow has always viewed the integration of clinical service, education and research as a priority in his work as a surgeon. He has seen giving back to the next generation as a humble privilege. He has been a passionate supporter of our School's alumni and is emblematic of the generous contribution our alumni make both to society and to the ongoing success of the University. He has dedicated his life to bringing together outstanding clinicians, teachers and researchers so that the whole was always greater than the sum of the parts.

The award of Companion of the University recognises Professor Wattchow's contribution to the University and to the community.