

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

CITATION

PROFESSOR HAROLD HENRY MESSER, EDSe MUSE PhD Cert Endo FICD

Professor Messer was born in 1942 in Maryborough, Queensland and educated at the University of Queensland, graduating with a Bachelor of Dental Science (First Class Honours and Gold Medalist) in 1964 and with a Master of Dental Science in 1967. In 1972 he graduated with a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota. He was then awarded a Certificate in Endodontics in 1983 from the University of Minnesota. From 1974 to 1989 Professor Messer was a Faculty member of the Department of Oral Biology and then Department of Endodontics of the University of Minnesota. In 1990 Professor Messer was appointed as Professor of Restorative Dentistry in the School of Dental Science at the University of Melbourne, and was Deputy Head of School and Director of Graduate Studies from 1990-1995, Head of School in 1997-1998 and retired from the University in 2005. Professor Messer is currently an Emeritus Professor of The University of Melbourne.

Professor Messer is a Diplomate with the American Board of Endodontics, a registered specialist with the Dental Practice Board of Victoria and a consultant in Endodontics in the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne. Through his consulting with the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne he has given generously of his time to provide his clinical expertise in endodontics and patient care to disadvantaged Victorians.

Professor Messer has an outstanding track record as a dental academic making distinguished contributions at all levels. He has made an impressive contribution to dental education in his chosen specialty, endodontics, with heavy teaching loads in the undergraduate curriculum and with his postgraduate coursework program, training specialist endodontists. Professor Messer, although specialising in endodontics, provided clinical leadership in the School in all areas of restorative dentistry. He has been a mentor to undergraduate and postgraduate dental students and has personally supervised over 60 postgraduate students. He is still engaged with postgraduate students of The University of Melbourne as he currently supervises eight PhD students. Professor Messer's research track record places him at the very top of dental academics internationally. He has in excess of 160 peer-reviewed scientific publications with three of these papers amongst the most highly cited dental literature. He has received funding for his research from agencies such as the National Institute of Health (USA), National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Dental Research Foundation.

Professor Messer's contribution to internationalisation at the University of Melbourne has been exemplary. He has been regularly involved in providing dental education in South East Asia and the Middle East and has been personally involved in recruiting over 35 international postgraduate students to the University of Melbourne. Those postgraduate students who have been directly supervised by Professor Messer are now in Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Associate Dean and Departmental Head positions at Universities in their home countries. Professor Messer's stellar career has been internationally recognised through a number of international awards and fellowships.

Professor Messer has been actively engaged in knowledge transfer by serving on committees of the Australian Dental Association (Professional Development Committee), the Australian Society of Endodontics (Chairman, Research Grants Advisory Committee; Education Committee) and the International Association for Dental Research, amongst others.

Professor Messer is internationally recognised for his outstanding contribution to dentistry and dental education.