

## Citation for Professor Dame Julia Higgins

Dame Julia Stretton Higgins DBE, FRS, FEng (born 1 July 1942) is Professor of Polymer Science and Senior Research Investigator, Department of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology, Imperial College, London.

Professor Higgins is highly regarded for her multi-disciplinary research into the understanding of the organisation and motion of polymer molecules. Her research explores the boundary between materials chemistry and engineering. In addition to her research achievements, Professor Higgins has pioneered exploration of the responsibilities of being a modern scientist and been instrumental in bringing consideration of gender issues to the political forefront. In 1999 she was appointed Chair of the Athena Project, a UK Government funded partnership charged with reversing the loss of women employed in science and increase the representation of women in senior posts in higher education.

Between 2003 and 2007, Professor Higgins was chair of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, UK. In addition, she was president of the Institution of Chemical Engineers 2002–3, and president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science 2003–4. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1995 and was its Foreign Secretary 2001–6. Most recently Dame Julia was Chair of the Royal Society's State of the Nation Report Steering Group. Since September 2008, she chairs the Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education. Professor Higgins is also a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, Royal Society of Chemistry and the Royal Academy of Engineering. She is also an honorary Fellow of the Institute of Physics and Somerville College, Oxford. She is a foreign member of the National Academy of Engineering of the United States. She was awarded a CBE in 1996 before being named Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in 2001.

In recent years Professor Higgins presented the Founders Prize Lectures, Polymer Physics Group Institute of Physics (2005), Blakett Lectures, Royal Society of Chemistry (2006), and Principal Speaker at the 2008 World Knowledge Dialogue Symposium. Professor Higgins is a regular visitor to the School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne, and presented the Lady Masson Lecture in 2008. In 2011 Professor Higgins is the Selby Lecturer, Australian Academy of Science.

In March 2010, the UKRC announced Professor Higgins as one of six Women of Outstanding Achievement in Science, Engineering and Technology.