

Citation for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of Laws *Honoris Causa*
Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell
DBE, BSc, PhD, DSc, FRS, FMedSci, FRCP (Hon), FRSB, FRSA

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell holds the rare distinction of making exceptional contributions to society in multiple areas of public and academic life. Her reputation extends across her outstanding career in medical research, her enduring public advocacy for science and her leadership in the higher education sector, characterised by her championing of women in STEM disciplines and the importance of universities engaging with their communities.

Her singular reputation as an internationally renowned medical researcher in two fields owes much to chance, but more to Nancy Rothwell's insight and determination to follow the science where it took her. Working early in her career as a physiologist, she made major discoveries in the mechanisms of energy balance regulation in obesity and cachexia. The unexpected discovery, made while investigating the changes in metabolism following stroke, that blocking the cytokine, interleukin-1 (IL-1), would reduce cellular damage to the brain, prompted Nancy Rothwell to switch her research focus onto the immunology of brain disease. She continues to make distinguished contributions to medical science in this area with her work on the role of inflammation in brain disease and IL-1 in brain injury. Her group is currently conducting final stage clinical trials on the use of an IL-1 inhibitor in stroke.

Her work engaging the public with science has been widely acclaimed and taken many forms. She is a familiar voice throughout the United Kingdom through her many science-media appearances, and has a long personal record of engaging with school children, both in the laboratory and through lecture series, and educating graduates on taking science to the public.

A powerful advocate for science, she has been influential through her leadership of numerous organisations, including the British Science Association, the Royal Society of Biology and the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology. Recognition for her contributions to the advancement of science include Fellowships of the Royal Society, the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Science Museum Group, honorary doctorates from numerous universities across the United Kingdom, and her appointment as Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2005.

When appointed President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester in 2010, she became the first woman Vice-Chancellor to lead the University or either of its two predecessor institutions and for a time was the only woman leader in the Russell Group of universities. She is overseeing a number of novel initiatives designed to take the university into the future, including a £1 billion campus redevelopment program and concurrent construction of a hotel and other externally funded facilities on campus, designed to continue her program of opening up the university to the public.

Not only engaged through the media and science outreach activities, Nancy Rothwell contributes actively to her local community through participation on a number of city boards and as a Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Greater Manchester – setting a clear example of the importance of local connections.

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell stands as an exemplar in the university and higher education sector. She has distinguished herself, her colleagues and her institution through her exceptional contributions to the science of physiology and neuroscience, through her advocacy for women in STEM, and through her impact on the public understanding of science arising out of her leadership of public engagement for the benefit of communities and their universities.