CITATION

Dr Dame Bridget Margaret Ogilvie, AC DBE, FRS, FAA

Dame Bridget Ogilvie is an Australian born scientist who has dedicated her life to pioneering science, building and supporting the research careers of others, and contributing to the public understanding of science.

She holds a Bachelor of Rural Science from the University of New England (1960), and a PhD and ScD from the University of Cambridge (1964, 1981). On completion of her PhD, Dame Bridget joined the Department of Parasitology at the National Institute for Medical Research in London, where, for the next 18 years, she continued her research into immune responses to parasites.

In the early 1980s she moved to the Wellcome Trust, initially as Coordinator of the Tropical Medicine Program and culminating with the appointment as Director in 1991. During her seven-year tenure as Director, she oversaw the establishment of the Sanger Institute. The Sanger Institute played a major role in the initial sequencing of the human genome, and has become a key organisation internationally in the support of human and pathogenic genome analysis. Under her direction, the Trust expanded tropical medicine studies in the Asia Pacific region and Africa, and developed many innovative schemes for the support of scientists, including a five-year Senior Fellowship scheme for able Australian scientists working overseas to return to Australia.

Dame Bridget has had a lifelong passion for communicating science and while Director at the Wellcome Trust she greatly increased the Trust’s involvement in public engagement.

During this same period, Dame Bridget was a trustee of the National Museum of Science and Industry in the UK (1992-2003) and was on the UK Council for Science and Industry (1993-2000).

Since retiring from the Wellcome Trust, Dame Bridget has served on the boards of many organisations, both large and small, including the UK Association of Medical Research Charities, Cancer Research UK, Lloyds TSB bank, AstraZeneca, the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, and Sense about Science. She was the founding Chair of Medicines for Malaria Venture.

She has received many honours for her contribution to biomedical research, service to science, and advocacy for global health. In 1996 she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE). In 2003 she became a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS). In 2007 she was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC). In 2008 she was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. Dame Bridget is the recipient of 25 honorary doctorates and was elected the High Steward of University of Cambridge in 2001.

It is fitting that the Faculty of Science recognise Dame Bridget Ogilvie’s outstanding contribution to science through the award of a Doctor of Science honoris causa.