



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citation

The degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa,
conferred on Dr. George P. Smith
Thursday, June 11, 2020

Dr. George P. Smith is a Nobel Prizewinner whose transformational contribution to chemistry and biomedical science has forever changed human lives for the better.

George grew up an army brat, moving from base to base and attending more than a dozen schools in the U.S. and Japan. As a boy, he was keenly interested in snakes and fancied a career as a herpetologist, but changed his mind while an undergraduate at Haverford College. Molecular biology, he discovered, was a much better fit for what he describes as his “mathematical habit of mind.”

He earned a PhD in bacteriology and immunology from Harvard in 1970, and then worked at the University of Wisconsin under Oliver Smithies —who later shared the 2007 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. In 1975, he joined the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri where he