



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. Terry Snutch Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Dr. Terrence Snutch, one of this university's most gifted and accomplished alumni. Dr. Snutch's groundbreaking research in molecular neurobiology has placed him in the front ranks of those scientists whose insights into nature's mysteries benefit society.

He earned his B.Sc. and Ph.D. on this campus, and later joined the California Institute of Technology as a Senior Research Fellow. While there, he laid the foundation for an astonishing career in research. Among his many early discoveries, he developed a novel methodology to clone genes from the brain, and his work led to the isolation of the first serotonin receptor.

Subsequently, and to this province's great good fortune, he returned home and joined the University of British Columbia. As Professor and Canada Research Chair in the Michael Smith Laboratories, he has used his formidable talents to uncover the relationship between calcium levels and pain, the role of specific calcium channels in transmitting pain signals in the body, and the potential for "blockers" to intercept those signals and alleviate pain symptoms. His revolutionary discoveries are the bedrock on which calcium channel research is now conducted. They have contributed inestimably towards understanding fundamental mechanisms in neurobiology, cardiovascular physiology, and cell biology. In fact, Dr. Snutch's seminal work has also provided the basis for new insights into a number of serious human genetic conditions and created unlimited new opportunities in pharmacotherapy.

Dr. Snutch understood immediately the clinical possibilities of his seminal research in the global race to develop a safe and effective painkiller and founded Neuromed Pharmaceuticals, Inc. As its Vice-President and Chief Scientific Officer, he has led the company from the discovery of its pain-blocking drug through to successful clinical trials. In early 2006, Neuromed licensed one of the drugs that he designed to Merck & Co. in the largest pharmaceutical licensing deal in Canadian history.

Dr. Snutch has received many honours for his contributions to science and business. These include the International Albrecht Fleckenstein Award, the Killam Research Prize, and the New Frontiers in Research Award from the BC Innovation Council. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and in 2004 BC Biotech named him Researcher of the Year. Today, we are honoured to recognize this exemplary scientist and entrepreneur.

Mr. Chancellor on behalf of the Senate of this University I ask that you now confer on Dr. Terrence P. Snutch the degree Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.