



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. Julia Levy Friday, June 4, 1999

Mr. Chancellor, it is a special pleasure to present Dr. Julia Levy, a respected immunologist who combines the insight of the scientist with the daring of the entrepreneur. We honour her today for her unique contribution to science, to students, and to British Columbians.

Julia Levy has often been heard to say, "I like to do it right the first time." And indeed, time and time again she has done just that. A brilliant student, she earned her Ph.D. at University College London, then returned home to join the Faculty of Science at The University of British Columbia. Here, Julia Levy quickly established herself not only as a gifted researcher but also as an inspired teacher for whom theory and practice were of equal importance. Today, she holds an Industrial Professorship in the Department of Microbiology at The University of British Columbia.

In the early 1980s, Dr. Levy's career took a new direction, one that quickly proved to be profoundly significant to British Columbia. She co-founded Quadra Logic Technologies, now QLT Phototherapeutics Incorporated. Under her leadership, first as Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, and now as President and Chief Executive Officer, the company has earned an enviable reputation as a leader in the development of light-activated drugs to treat cancer, psoriasis, and age-related vision loss. QLT is the most successful biotechnology company in BC, its reputation extending well beyond our borders. Its success has inspired many others to start their own biotechnology companies in this province, a beneficial development for all British Columbians in this, the knowledge-based age.

Julia Levy's accomplishments have long been recognized. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, she currently chairs the Premier's Advisory Council for Science and Technology in British Columbia. She has sat on numerous other scientific advisory boards and has been an officer of several professional societies. Of the many honours accorded her, two serve to symbolize her unique combination of talents. In 1981 she received a Gold Medal from the Science Council of British Columbia. Many years later, in 1998, she was named Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year.