

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN**  
**HONORARY CONFERRING**  
Tuesday, 16 June 2009 at 12 noon

TEXT OF THE INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS DELIVERED BY **Professor Pauline Rudd**, University College Dublin, on the occasion of the conferring of the Degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa on **RICHARD A. LERNER**

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Dr. Richard A. Lerner is President and CEO of The Scripps Institute and a renowned chemist.

He is the Lita Annenberg Hazen Professor of Immunochemistry and Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Chair in Chemistry.

He is chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of Ireland's National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training, a major programme that will foster the development of biopharmaceutical research and innovation in this country.

Dr. Lerner received his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, where he attended from 1956-1959; BS and MD degrees from Stanford University Medical School in 1964; and a Doctor of Science from his alma mater in 2002. Following his training as a physician, he was a postdoctoral fellow in experimental pathology at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, which he would one day lead as The Scripps Research Institute. He went on to be an Associate of the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia and then returned to La Jolla. He was appointed chairman of its molecular biology department of the Research Institute of Scripps Clinic in 1982 and 5 years later was made director and subsequently president of what evolved as The Scripps Research Institute.

Early in his career he received a National Institutes of Health Career Development Award in allergic and immune diseases. Indeed, he has been the recipient of numerous international awards and recognitions; he was Elected Foreign Member, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1985; he was decorated as official de La Orden de San Carlos by the President of Colombia in 1986; he has received several honorary degrees, including an Honorary Doctorate of Medicine from the Karolinska Institute, an Honorary Doctorate of Science Award Doctor from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and Honorary Doctorate Degree from Ben-Gurion University, both in Israel; an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Florida Atlantic University; and most recently in 2007 an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa from Oxford University in the UK. He has been a recipient of the John A. Muntz Memorial Prize, from Albany Medical College in New York; the Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award in Chemistry, Washington, D.C; the Humboldt Research Award; the Hyp J. Dauben Award in Chemistry, University of Washington; the Windaus-Medal/Award ; The Wolf Prize in Chemistry for 1994 (with Peter Schultz); the Paul Ehrlich-and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize; and the President's Medal, University of California, amongst many others. He has had numerous academic appointments and has been a Visiting Scientist at IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, New York, attesting to his wide interests and expertise. He has been honored in his home state by amongst other things being named California Scientist of the Year in 1996.

Dr. Lerner is a Charter Member of the American Society for Virology, and holds memberships in the American Society for Experimental Pathology, the American Society of Microbiology, the New York Academy of Sciences, the Biophysical Society, and the Pluto Society. Dr. Lerner was elected a Member

of National Academy of Science USA in 1991; the Scientific Policy Advisory Committee, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden in 1991; the Scientific Advisory Board, Economic Development Board, Singapore in 1991 and as Trustee, The Neurosciences Research Foundation, Inc. in 1992. He was also elected a Member of the Advisory Board, Chemical & Engineering News in 1994; the Advisory Board of ETH Institute of Biotechnology, Zurich, in 1994; the Scientific Policy Committee of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Stanford, CA. from 1995-1998; the Scientific Advisory Board of the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology in 1996; the Advisory Board of the College of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley from 1996-1997; the Board of Directors of the California Council on Science and Technology from 1996-1997; the Advisory Steering Group for Chemistry, California State University in 1996; and the International Board of Governors, The Peres Center for Peace, Tel Aviv, Israel in 1998. He was appointed Chairman of the Governor's Council on Bioscience by Governor Gray Davis of CA in 1999 and as a member of the Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC in 1999.

Dr. Lerner has held several key directorships and advisory positions on industry boards, including Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of Pfizer Inc. and Sorrento Therapeutics, Inc; member of the scientific advisory boards of 5AM Ventures, Acro, Bay City Capital, Optimer and Siemens Aktiengesellschaft; and board member of Sequenom, OPKO Health, Inc., Kraft Foods and Intra-Cellular Therapies.

Dr. Lerner is a renowned chemist recognized for his outstanding work on catalytic antibodies and their application as versatile, molecular tools in such diverse areas as chemical synthesis, drug delivery, and bactericidal action. In addition to his research into catalytic antibodies, providing a method of catalyzing chemical reactions thought impossible using classical techniques, Dr. Lerner has led extensive studies into protein structure, characterized a novel lipid hormone that induces sleep, and provided the first evidence of a role for ozone in human disease. Dr. Lerner's has published more than 67 patents and 403 scientific papers. In his position as President of one of the world's most outstanding biomedical research institutes, he has fostered interdisciplinary research, particularly at the interface of chemistry and biology. He is a science entrepreneur and innovator, forging groundbreaking collaborations between The Scripps Research Institute and major industry and establishing a new Scripps biomedical research institute in Florida, which will develop new drugs and new technologies for the life sciences.

Praehonorabilis Praeses, totaque Universitas,

Praesento vobis hunc meum filium, quem scio tam moribus quam doctrina habilem et idoneum esse qui admittatur, honoris causa, ad gradum Doctoratus in Scientiae; idque tibi fide mea testor ac spondeo, totique Academiae.