**Citation for Edward Llewellyn Crook**

**Doctor of Pharmacy *(honoris causa)***

Friday, 5 May 2023, 12.00pm

Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Mr Edward Crook to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy *(honoris causa)* in recognition of his exceptional service as a pharmacy innovator and entrepreneur in shaping modern pharmacy practice and patient care.

In 1959, Mr Crook graduated in pharmacy studies at the University of Sydney, while working as an apprentice pharmacist. Mr Crook commenced his pharmacy career at Hallam Pharmacies in Sydney, before moving to Canberra where he owned and operated a number of community pharmacies. Serving the community across the ACT and embracing his entrepreneur flare. Mr Crook was a founding member and subsequently chairman of an ACT pharmacy marketing group that brought pharmacies and community pharmacies together to secure competitive prices for medicines and share resources in promoting their services.

Mr Crook has always been willing to take on leadership roles in the pharmacy profession, including serving as ACT President of both the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and Pharmacy Guild of Australia in the late 1970s. He made an outstanding contribution, serving in these leadership roles at a time of considerable change in community pharmacy with the changing nature of healthcare and funding for the sector.

Throughout his career Mr Crook has always embraced innovation and technology. In 1977 Mr Crook and fellow pharmacist, Colin Trevena led the development and implementation of computer systems in pharmacy including the dispensing process alongside medication information and drug interaction checking. This represented a major practice innovation, deploying computers for record keeping, dispensing process, medicines information and ultimate managing inventory. The company they formed called Chemdata then entered a relationship with Amfac to form the national Amfac-Chemdata company, established in 1984. Amfac-Chemdata led the pharmacy sector as a software developer providing computer-based solutions to Community and Hospital Pharmacy throughout Australia. Over 20 years Amfac-Chemdata had a team of 300 employees and gained market share of 80% within community pharmacy before being sold to IMS in 1993.

Mr Crook has been committed to lifelong learning, gaining a number of qualifications throughout his career to allow him to continue to change and innovate in the sector. Mr Crook has a Master of Management Economics degree from the University of NSW and holds qualifications as a Certified Practising Accountant.

In the 1970s, he led a major “Citizen Science” project, the aim of which was to test the effectiveness of sunglasses, which were widely sold through community pharmacies. A part of this project Mr Crook provided, and instructed high school children in the use of an instrument which was used to test the transmission properties of sunglass lenses. The results of this experiment identified major deficiencies in some sunglasses sold in the community. This work led to the amendment of the Australian Standard on Sunglasses and Mr Crook’s appointment to the Consumer Council of the ACT, thus. contributing to the community innovation and the application of technology.

Throughout his career, Mr Crook has been a strong supporter of the University of Sydney, especially the Sydney Pharmacy School. He has played a key role as a founding supporter and member of the Advisory Board of the Herbal Medicines Research and Education Centre in the then Faculty of Pharmacy. This centre had a major role in recognising the increasing use of complementary and herbal medicines in the community and the need for appropriate use of these medicines to be underpinned by high quality research and training. Mr Crook played a major role in securing support for the development of a herb-drug interaction database for computer-based checking of potential interactions. This database is still used today, implemented in the widely used eMIMs software.

In summary, Mr Crook is a pharmacist innovator who led the development and implementation of pharmacy computer systems for safe dispensing, accurate record keeping, patient information and stock inventory. The impact of his foundational contribution is still apparent today shaping the way pharmacy is practiced through high end digital systems to support safety, patient care and efficient business practices.

Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I present Edward Crook for admission to the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy *(honoris causa)* and invite you to confer the degree upon him.