

**2012 DECEMBER GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

**Friday, 14 December 2012 – 11am  
UQ Centre, Union Road, St Lucia**

**Faculty of Health Sciences**

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**CITATION**

**Award of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*  
Professor Dennis Liotta**

Chancellor,

Professor Dennis Liotta is recognised as one of the world's most successful academic entrepreneurs and medicinal chemists, who has helped improve the quality of life and life expectancies for people with HIV.

A chemistry professor from the University of Emory in Atlanta, United States of America, Professor Liotta is regarded as a global leader in the design and development of nucleoside-based antiviral compounds.

He is also widely acknowledged for his strong commitment to improving health in developing nations.

Professor Liotta's team has developed seven HIV drugs which are now on the market and have been taken by 95 per cent of HIV-positive Americans.

He received a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the City University of New York in 1974, and completed postdoctoral training at Ohio State University in 1976.

As well as authoring more than 230 research publications and being responsible for more than 70 issued US patents, he has consulted and advised major pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical firms including Merck, GlaxoSmithKline and Johnson & Johnson.

Since joining Emory University in 1976 he has received virtually every major award the University bestows, including the highest: the Thomas Jefferson Award for teaching.

He has served as Chair of the Chemistry Department and Emory's Vice-President for Research, and is now Director of the Emory Institute for Drug Development, and Co-Director of the Emory/Republic of South Africa Drug Discovery Training Program.

He is also Editor-in-Chief of the American Chemical Society journal *Medicinal Chemistry Letters*.

In recent years, Professor Liotta has energetically promoted potential Emory-UQ collaborations, which may lead to new medicinal products including vaccines.

Chancellor, in recognition of his distinguished career and his contribution to The University of Queensland, I present to you Professor Dennis Liotta, Bachelor of Arts from Queens College, The City University of New York; PhD from the City University of New York, Doctor of Science *honoris causa* from Queens College, City University New York for the award of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.