Mr. Chancellor, in each generation of scientists there are those few whose brilliance illuminates new frontiers. Dr. Victor Ling’s stellar and multi-faceted career in cancer research places him among those select individuals whose work advances our understanding of this frightening disease and offers society new insights into its treatment.

In 1974, just a few years after he earned his Ph.D. at The University of British Columbia, Victor Ling startled the scientific community with his discovery of P-glycoprotein and the mechanism of multi-drug resistance in cancer cells. His leading-edge research has not only helped other scientists unravel the genetic basis of cancer but also given hope to cancer patients who do not respond well to existing forms of treatment.

Dr. Ling’s talents extend well beyond the laboratory. As scientist, educator, and author or co-author of 180 publications, he is both a champion of and a catalyst for cancer research in this country. A relentless campaigner for improved cancer treatment, he has brought new vision to the treatment of cancer. As Vice President of Research at the BC Cancer Agency and the co-director of the Genome Sequence Centre at the agency, Dr. Ling is renowned for his inspirational leadership. Indeed, he attracts outstanding scientists and clinicians, who work relentlessly on the genetics of drug resistance in an effort to help patients with many different forms of cancer.

Dr. Ling’s tireless exploration of the genetics of cancer has earned him every major cancer research prize in the world, including the Gairdner Foundation International Award, the Dr. Josef Steiner Cancer Research Award and the National Cancer Institute of Canada’s Robert L. Nobel Prize. Dr. Ling is also the first and only Canadian to receive the prestigious General Motors Research Foundation Kettering Prize. And in 2000 this province recognized his unique contributions with the Order of British Columbia.

Throughout his career Dr. Ling has been consistently in the forefront of cancer research. Indeed, his pioneering work makes us all optimistic that someday this formidable disease will be conquered. Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, and in recognition of his many unprecedented contributions to science and society, I ask that you now confer upon Dr. Victor Ling the degree Doctor of Laws, 

**honoris causa.**