**CITATION: Peter eiddon Cleaton-Jones**

Peter Eiddon Cleaton-Jones was born on 5 March 1941 in Johannesburg. He matriculated from the Marist Brothers College in 1957 and enrolled in the Faculty of Dentistry at Wits in 1958 as a National War Fund Grantee. Peter qualified BDS (cum Honoribus) in 1963 as the top graduate of the year winning all the undergraduate prizes on offer at the time.

During his final six months of dentistry he realised that if he wished to progress academically he would need to qualify in medicine as well. He was subsequently accepted into the third year of study in medicine and qualified MBBCh in 1967, again winning multiple prizes along the way.

After his internship at the Baragwanath hospital in 1968, Peter joined the MRC / Wits Dental Research Unit in January 1969, rising to be Chief Research Officer in 1973 and subsequently in 1977 he was appointed Professor of Experimental Odontology and Director of the Unit. Under his leadership the research direction of the unit changed to include dental caries, dental epidemiology, and anaesthesia. He also set goals to build increased capacity in research and to establish an international reputation for the unit. In 1978 the MRC upgraded the Unit to an Institute with additional funding that helped towards achieving these goals. Capacity building was primarily achieved by encouraging private dental practitioners to do research towards higher qualifications in the Institute and secondly to initiate formal training in research methods. No such training was available at the time in the dental school so when Peter went overseas to Britain and the Netherlands in 1972 he looked for guidance. It however took time to set up such a course which started in 1978. From 1980 the course was jointly run by Peter and the second-in-command in the Institute, Prof Elly Grossman. The course lasted until 2010 and was attended by nearly 2000 people, some of whom had no research background, while others were highly experienced researchers.

The international reputation of the Institute was aided by the time Peter spent in visiting numerous centres in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. As the international reputation increased, many collaborators from overseas spent varying periods in the Dental Research Institute. Importantly also strong internal collaborations with clinical departments at Wits developed most notably with Anaesthesiology and Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery.

During much of the time that Peter worked in the Dental Research Unit he also held part-time positions in anaesthesiology at the Baragwanath hospital until 1975 and subsequently at the Johannesburg hospital until 2003. At the same time he also had a part-time position as an emergency medicine medical officer at the Hillbrow hospital until 1984.

Peter remained the Director of the MRC/Wits Dental Research Institute until 2004 when the MRC component was removed in terms of a new policy to rotate research funding; at the time the Institute was the longest running in the MRC. The Institute continued within Wits until 2006 when Peter retired at the age of 65.

During his active research career, Peter obtained higher degrees and additional qualifications. These were three doctorates: a PhD from Wits in 1975, a DSc (Dent) again from Wits in 1991 and a PhD Honoris Causa from Medunsa in 2001. In order to get training in epidemiology and statistics he completed the DTM&H and DPH diplomas at Wits. Finally, he completed a diploma in anaesthesia from the Colleges of Medicine in 1975 and was awarded a Fellowship of the College of Dentistry ad eundem by the Colleges of Medicine in 2005.

During his very active research career Peter has published approximately 350 papers that have been cited on nearly 3000 occasions. The H index for these publications is in the high twenties, a truly remarkable achievement given the field in which Peter has dedicated his research career too.

There is no doubt that Peter has had an illustrious and exhilarating academic career spanning over 50 years. He is also an amazing individual, who, despite having retired in 2006, ten years later continues to serve the University as Chair of the Human Research Ethics Committee.

In light of these achievements it is therefore befitting that the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg awards an honorary doctorate degree Peter Eiddon Cleaton-Jones.