

DR KENNETH VALL

Pro-Chancellor,

Dr Ken Vall is an international leader in chiropractic, and until recently was Principal of the Anglo-European College of Chiropractic in Boscombe. He began to study mathematics at the University of Stockholm, but switched to chiropractic and came as a student to the AECC where he graduated as Doctor of Chiropractic in 1974. He practised for a time in his native Sweden, and later in Brockenhurst and Ferndown.

But significantly Ken also pursued his career-long association with the AECC, first as a Board member in 1976 and then as Chairman. However, he resigned from the Board when his expertise was required to teach at degree level, first as Clinical Tutor but later as Senior Lecturer, then Vice-Principal and finally Principal in 2004.

Under Ken's leadership the AECC has consolidated its position as one of Europe's foremost chiropractic educational institutions. Its Campus facilities have been greatly enhanced, particularly through the building of a new chiropractic clinic, the largest in Europe and regarded as one of the best in the world. After a tough battle Ken secured access to public funding for AECC students, a landmark achievement which raised the profile and status of the College across Europe. He has consistently advocated and fostered educational programmes which produce graduates who are ready to work effectively in the world of professional chiropractic and interact with other health professionals. During his time as Principal the AECC also developed stronger links with the local community, and with AFC Bournemouth.

Ken is greatly respected internationally as one of the profession's luminaries whose influence has fundamentally changed the status of chiropractic, so that it is now seen, not as a fringe therapy but an authoritative contributor to musculoskeletal health care. His reputation has been recognised by major international appointments, including membership of the European Chiropractors' Union, the European Academy of Chiropractic, and the European Council on Chiropractic Education, which he also represents on the International Council on Chiropractic Education. He remains very active in the World Federation of Chiropractic through its international conferences. Ken has also advised a number of governments on chiropractic education, and helped to establish the first university-based chiropractic institution in Spain at the Escorial Maria Cristina Royal University Centre in Madrid, which has had a major impact in that country and in the wider profession. His international status was underlined in 2010 when he received the European Chiropractors'

Union award for Outstanding Service to the Chiropractic Profession.

Ken led the development of AECC's partnership with BU, and he regards the success of this collaboration as one of his greatest achievements. Through the Associate College relationship established in 2005, Bachelors and Masters degrees are provided, and the two institutions work together in research, for example on the treatment of amputees. The College also runs a clinic at SportBU. How very appropriate, then, that Ken Vall's professional achievements, and his contributions to higher education regionally and internationally, should be recognised and celebrated today by this University where he has been known for many years as a partner, supportive friend and advocate.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Dr Kenneth Vall, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.