



Soon-Shiong, Patrick (Honorary Doctor of Philosophy)

The Johannesburg Business School is honoured to nominate Dr Patrick Soon-Shiong for the award of an honorary PhD (*honoris causa*). Dr Soon-Shiong is a much admired South African and a global scientific and business trailblazer. Maintaining utmost humility and as an energetic activist against South Africa's apartheid government, he emerged as one of the major success stories of our country. This he achieved despite repeated episodes of humiliation visited upon him being classified Chinese.

Patrick Soon-Shiong was born to Chinese immigrant parents in Gqeberha, South Africa, in 1952. He graduated top of his class from the University of the Witwatersrand, receiving a Bachelor's

degree in Medicine (MBBCh) at age 23. Despite racial prejudice, he completed his medical internship at the Johannesburg General Hospital. He then earned a master's degree at the University of British Columbia in 1979, with research awards from the American College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and the American Association of Academic Surgery. He moved to the United States and began surgical training at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and became a board-certified surgeon in 1984. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Canada) and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is married to former actress Michele B. Chan, has two children and live in Los Angeles, California.

Dr Soon-Shiong has established himself as an internationally respected transplant surgeon, businessman, bioscientist, and media proprietor. He is the inventor of the revolutionary drug, Abraxane, renowned for its efficacy in the treatment of lung, breast, and pancreatic cancer. As the youngest professor of surgery in UCLA's history, he accomplished a milestone when performing the coastal region's first successful pancreas transplant. He also performed the first islet cell transplant in the world at St Vincent's Medical Center. By 1991, securing an investor, Dr Soon-Shiong launched a drug development company called VivoRx, and more companies – American Bioscience (to pursue cancer research), American

Pharmaceutical Partners, NantWorks (an assemblage of start-ups aimed at next-generation pharmaceutical development), and Fierce Biotech (to revolutionise digital healthcare).

Dr Soon-Shiong is also a dedicated philanthropist and chairs several non-profit organisations. A patriot, he committed \$213 million to South Africa for COVID-19 vaccines and other therapies. He is also an accomplished scholar and has published more than 100 scientific papers and has more than 230 issued patents worldwide in the fields of technology and medicine.

His generosity to the poor and marginalised, substantial accomplishments and towering intellect epitomise the quest that is at the heart of the University of Johannesburg's mission to lead the continent in scientific endeavour. He is more than worthy of this honour and an exemplar of what we strive to achieve as South Africans.