

## **DR JITSUHIRO YAMADA**

### **Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Health Studies (*honoris causa*)**

Jitsuhiro Yamada was born in Shimoyoneda-cho, Minokamo, Gifu Prefecture, Japan, in December 1943. Following his primary and secondary education, he qualified in 1962 for admission to the Medical School at Nihon University in Tokyo. Nihon University is one of the oldest and most respected universities in Japan and is now Japan's largest university with more than 100,000 students, 7,700 teaching staff and it has graduated 670,000 students since it was founded in 1889.

Dr Yamada graduated from Nihon University in 1968 with his degree in medicine and immediately was admitted to the University's Surgery Division. Having qualified and then practised as a surgeon, he was admitted in 1970 to the University's Neurosurgery Division and after extensive training qualified with the Japanese Neurosurgery Academy in 1976 as a certified specialist in neurosurgery. He continued studies with Nihon University and in 1978 was awarded his PhD for pioneering research into brain circulation. In 1979, he joined the staff of the Neurosurgery Division at Nihon University and became recognised in Japan for his teaching and research in the field of neurosurgery. This recognition resulted in him becoming an official consultant to the Japanese Neurosurgery Association and a representative of Japan on the International Neurosurgery Society.

In 1982, Dr Yamada returned home to Minokamo City in Gifu Prefecture to take up the position of Head of Neurosurgery at Kizawa Memorial Hospital, a post he still holds. In 1988, he became Vice-President of the Hospital and in 1997 was chosen as its President. Kizawa Hospital is now one of the leading private hospitals in Gifu Prefecture and is known nationally for its advances in the use of medical technology.

Dr Yamada's return to Minokamo City also marked the beginning of a remarkable "second career". In 1987, he established and became Chairman of the Board of the "Jikeikai" Social Welfare Corporation in Minokamo City to advance the interests of the ageing population. Very quickly he established a number of innovative, aged care facilities where the focus was on quality of life and wellness in old age. The first of these opened in 1988 and the most recent is under construction in Gero Springs.

Dr Yamada's commitment to health and wellbeing led him, in 1992, to develop an athletic medical treatment facility in Minokamo City (known as "Club M") which quickly received national recognition by the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare. He was also responsible for establishing a private nursing college in Minokamo City. Ajisai Nursing College, founded in 1994, is now regarded as one of Japan's premier nurse training facilities with its students scoring amongst the highest results in the national nursing registration examinations in Japan. In 1998, Dr Yamada became Principal of the College and it was he who was instrumental in developing a formal relationship with Charles Sturt University to enable students from the College to undertake English Language instruction at the University as a prerequisite to them completing a degree in nursing at Charles Sturt University.

It was through Dr Yamada's vision, that social and educational links were established with Australia and particularly with the city of Dubbo, which has just celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Sister City relationship with Minokama City. As the Chairman of the Minokama City International Exchange Association, Dr Yamada was instrumental in facilitating opportunities for high school students from Minokama City to spend a year of their secondary education in Dubbo and for Dubbo students to have a similar experience in Japan. More than 100 students have been exchanged between the two cities. Dr Yamada has been a regular visitor to Dubbo and remains a true and loyal friend of the city and its people.

Dr Jitsuhiro Yamada is internationally respected and honoured as a leading neurosurgeon, he is acknowledged nationally in Japan as providing innovative care for older people, he is a leader in the provision of nursing education in Japan, he has pioneered international links between the cities of Minokama and Dubbo, he has recognised the importance of Charles Sturt University in the further development of these Sister City links and he is a man on whom Charles Sturt University is proud to confer the award, Doctor of Health Studies (*honoris causa*).

**Dated this Tenth Day of June One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Nine**