



## Honorary Degree

## Nomination Form

1. Degree to be Awarded:

Honorary Doctorate     Honorary Baccalaureate     Honorary Associate

2. Please state the name and address of your nominee for an Honorary Degree.

Mick Hitchcock

3. Honorary degrees shall be awarded to persons who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the quality of academic programs and academic life at one of the NSHE's institutions. Persons currently holding public elected office are not eligible for the degree except in extraordinary circumstances.

What are your reasons for nominating this person? (Attach additional pages, if necessary.)

Please see attachment

Dr. Marc Johnson                      January 30, 2017  
President                                      Date

University of Nevada, Reno  
Institution

(B/R 3/03; Added 6/05)

# **Attachment**

## **UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO**

### **Honorary Degree Nomination – Mick Hitchcock**

The University of Nevada, Reno is pleased to nominate researcher Mick Hitchcock for Honorary Doctorate of Letters in proud recognition of his significant contributions to the University and the state of Nevada.

Mick Hitchcock received his undergraduate and master's degrees in biochemistry at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology and his Ph.D. in microbiology at the University of Melbourne. He worked for more than a decade at Bristol-Myers Squibb before joining Gilead, a bio-pharmaceutical company in the Bay Area that advances therapeutics to improve lives.

At Gilead, together with former Bristol colleague John Martin, he developed Viread, approved by the FDA in 2001 as a once-daily pill to treat HIV. Before Viread, a reported 90 percent of AIDS patients had to take as many as a dozen pills throughout the day, suffering side effects including gauntness, anemia and liver damage. Subsequently, Hitchcock and Martin developed Atripla, approved in 2006 as the first single-tablet regimen for treatment of HIV that includes the active component of Viread and two other drugs. Ease of use made it a popular choice for physicians and patients. More recently, the company launched Sovaldi and Harvoni, Hepatitis C treatments that can essentially cure most patients with few side effects.

Out of a firm belief in the power of science and research to provide the answers to the problems that confront us, Hitchcock has substantially supported a wide range of projects at Nevada, including renovation of the undergraduate microbiology teaching lab, equipment for the Nevada Newborn Screening Lab and support of the Chemical Ecology Center. He has also provided funding for graduate assistantships, and for equipment for the Genomics Center and the Nevada Proteomics Center which will facilitate research across multiple disciplines and programs. Because of his background in biochemistry and its application in drug discovery and development, in 2014, Hitchcock established the Mick Hitchcock, Ph.D. Endowed Chair in Medical Biochemistry.

Hitchcock was named a University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Trustee in 2015 where he serves on the Planning and Governance Board and the Audit and Finance Committee. He has been recognized for his philanthropy in the University's Honor Court where he was inducted as a Founder in 2014 and a Philanthropist in 2015.