

Honorary Fellow Professor Michael Kotlikoff

Citation written and delivered by Chair Professor Michael Reichel

Chairman of the Council and President:

Michael I. Kotlikoff, Professor of Molecular Physiology, became the 16th Provost of Cornell University on 1 August 2015. A member of the Cornell faculty since 2000, he most recently served as the Austin O. Hooey Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, New York.

Professor Kotlikoff has been a great friend of City University of Hong Kong (CityU). He was instrumental in getting the School of Veterinary Medicine established at CityU in 2014. Drawing on his vast experience as an educator, researcher and administrator in veterinary studies, he helped to promote the key benefits of such a school among key stakeholders in government, education and public health circles here in Hong Kong.

Now, under his mentorship a number of initiatives have started, which are now bearing fruit – postgraduate research students have commenced their studies in a joint PhD programme with Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and graduate veterinarians have started their residency training at Ithaca, New York.

His personal enthusiasm for CityU is evidenced by the fact that he doesn’t think twice about jumping on a plane to make the 16-hour trip across to Hong Kong, from the east coast of the United States, to be here when it matters most. Thus he has been in Hong Kong almost twice every year, the last time in March and September last year for important donation ceremonies, and we welcome him here again today.

Professor Kotlikoff received his BA (Literature) and VMD (Veterinariae Medicinae Doctoris) degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and his PhD in Physiology from the University of California, Davis. He was then recruited to Cornell in 2000 from the University of Pennsylvania, where he

was Professor and Chair of the Department of Animal Biology, to become founding Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Chair of the Mammalian Genomics Life Science Initiative. He established and served as the first director of the Cornell Core Transgenic Mouse Facility and has served on or chaired many university committees, including the Local Advisory Committee of the Faculty, the Institute for Biotechnology and Life Science Technologies Scientific Advisory Committee, the Provost's Graduate Field Task Force, and the Provost's Budget Model Task Force, as well as numerous committees of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and editorial boards.

As Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell (2007–2015), Professor Kotlikoff initiated a comprehensive strategic plan to enhance programmes in education and the delivery of animal health care and research. He also launched an \$87 million capital project to upgrade infrastructure, and teaching and research facilities and to enable an increase in pre-clinical class size. Throughout his tenure he oversaw an increase in the diversity of the faculty, staff, and college administration; the expansion of clinical training opportunities for veterinary students; and a reorganisation of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals. He also focused on expanding basic and clinical research programmes and promoting transnational linkages and interdisciplinary research.

The Kotlikoff research laboratory, which has been continuously funded by the NIH for over 30 years, is internationally recognised in the area of cardiovascular biology. As Provost, Professor Kotlikoff continues to maintain his laboratory even today.

Mr Chairman and Mr President, Professor Michael Kotlikoff is a true friend of this University and is well deserving of the honour. It is my pleasure to present to you Professor Kotlikoff who has been awarded the title of Honorary Fellow.