

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S DISTINGUISHED SENIOR  
RESEARCH MEDAL**

Mr Chancellor, I have the honour of presenting to you  
**Alan Nicholas Hodgson,**  
Professor and Head  
of the Department of Zoology & Entomology,

for the award of the Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Senior Research Medal.

Professor Hodgson is widely regarded as one of South Africa's most distinguished researchers in invertebrate biology and marine malacology; in lay terms, the study of snail-like water dwellers and other small creatures that play critical roles in the ecological health of natural systems. He is especially highly regarded for his work in the reproductive biology of molluscs.

His peers on the selection committee for this award were particularly persuaded by the international impact of his scholarly activities over a sustained period. Reviewers use words like "integrity", "scholar" and "meticulous", and phrases like "indisputable leader in his field" to describe him. All concur that he is a researcher of international standing, which is reflected in his award of a B rating by the NRF in 2001.

Professor Hodgson obtained his BSc (Hons) degree (1976) in Marine Biology at the University of Liverpool, and his PhD degree (1980) at the University of Manchester. In 2004 he was awarded a Doctor of Science degree from the University of Manchester for his career-long body of research into marine mollusks and invertebrate biology.

He is credited by his peers as having made significant inroads into producing new knowledge and understanding in these areas. An indication of Professor Hodgson's standing within the Zoological community is his election for terms as President of the *International Society of Invertebrate Reproduction and Development* and of the *Zoological Society of South Africa*, amongst many forms of recognition and contribution to professional bodies. He served for 8 years as editor of the *Journal of African Zoology*, and is currently co-editor of the *Journal of Invertebrate Reproduction & Development*. A referee describes him as "a forerunner in the development and promotion of the study of invertebrate marine and estuarine biology in South Africa". He was awarded the Zoological Society's prestigious Gold Medal in 2007, and was elected as Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa in 2008.

Professor Hodgson's publication record is outstanding. Among his publications are 114 Journal publications, the majority in internationally ranked journals, a co-authored book, and five invited book chapters. He has graduated 10 PhD students, several of whom have taken up academic positions at South African and European institutions. What makes this

research record especially significant is that it has been achieved while simultaneously undertaking a full teaching load, as well as the administration and leadership responsibilities of Head of the Department of Zoology & Entomology, and Head of the Rhodes University Electron Microscopy Unit.

Mr Chancellor, I request you to award the **2010 Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Senior Research Medal** to **Professor Alan Nicholas Hodgson**.