

## DAME YVONNE MOORES

Pro-Chancellor,

Britain, it is generally agreed, leads the world in standards of nursing, and today BU is proud to honour a most highly distinguished nurse who has done much to strengthen and advance the great reputation of the profession in this country. Dame Yvonne Moores was England's most senior nurse, as Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Nursing at the Department of Health in 1992–99, and was previously Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland in 1988-92 and for Wales in 1982-88. To hold all three of these national offices is an historic achievement, almost certainly never to be equalled, because in present and foreseeable circumstances it seems impossible that any one person could ever do so again. In these national roles Dame Yvonne was an advisor to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health on a range of policy matters and improvements in the quality of clinical services. Two of her high-profile contributions were the setting up of NHS Direct, a major innovation to provide wider and more flexible access to health advice, and the establishment of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) which agrees the drugs and treatments available on the NHS.

Dame Yvonne's leadership of the nursing profession in the UK brought her to prominence on the world stage, though she has been involved in international work throughout her career. For many years she served as consultant to the United Nations, mainly through the World Health Organisation. As Chair of the WHO Nursing Committee she developed resolutions for the World Health Assembly, steered them through, and lobbied governments to implement them. Since then her passionate concern for nursing and health education in the developing world has taken her to numerous countries. She has mentored chief nurses in African and Asian countries, and promoted research on managing the impact of AIDS. When she joined the Board of Directors at Poole hospital in 2007 she was involved in twinning it with Wau Hospital in South Sudan, a country with one of the highest maternal and child mortality

rates in the world. She is Patron and Trustee of the Poole Africa Link, a charity which is supporting the development of health care for around a million people, through education and training of doctors, nurses and midwives and in taking vital medical equipment to Wau Hospital.

Dame Yvonne is also passionate about higher education and has devoted much time and energy to the university world. She was a member of the Council at Southampton University from 1994 to 2006, and Chair for the last six of those years. At national level she was Deputy Chair of the Committee of University Chairs in 2003–04, and a Board Member at the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education in 2005–07. But at BU we are especially grateful for her service as a Pro-Chancellor from 2006 to last year.

Dame Yvonne's exceptional career has brought her well-deserved national and professional honours, particularly her appointment as Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1999. She is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (UK), the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, the Royal College of Physicians, the College of Medicine at the University of Wales. Southampton and six other UK universities have awarded honorary degrees to Dame Yvonne, and today BU adds its name to that distinguished company.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Dame Yvonne Moores, and I ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.