

JOSEPH M. CONNORS
Trinity College Class of 1969
Doctor of Science

Healing. That's the one simple word you used 50 years ago on a Trinity College alumni survey to describe the nature of your work. Five decades later, it is clear that you have dedicated your professional life to healing, focusing your clinical and research efforts in the area of lymphoid cancers and on the application of genomic analysis to understanding and optimizing treatment for these diseases.

Now clinical professor emeritus in the Department of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology, at the University of British Columbia and past clinical director of the BC Cancer Centre for Lymphoid Cancer, you are best known for your clinical investigations into the biology and treatment of Hodgkin lymphoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemias, and myeloma. Your vast expertise is evident in the more than 500 peer-reviewed scientific articles and dozens of book chapters you have published, all addressing various aspects of research into lymphoid cancers. You also have lectured around the world, sharing your knowledge with others.

Your tremendous work has been met with a plethora of accolades. They include being named, in 2020, as a member of the Order of Canada—considered the cornerstone of the Canadian Honours System—which recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to the nation. You have been named as a Clarivate Web of Science Highly Cited Researcher—a recognition given to the top 0.1 percent of researchers worldwide—every year since the list began in 2014. In 2015, you received the MD Anderson Cancer Center Charles A. Koller, M.D., Lectureship Award, and in 2013, you received a Canadian Medical Association Lifetime Achievement Award and the Dr. Don Rix Award for Lifetime Achievement from Life Sciences BC. You also have twice been the recipient of the Terry Fox Cancer Research Award by the British Columbia Medical Association, in 2018 and in 1983.

Your leadership in the field has included membership in numerous professional organizations, including the American Society of Hematology, the Canadian Medical Association, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. You've also served on myriad scientific committees and advisory boards, as well as on several editorial boards and as an editorial consultant to a host of well-respected publications including *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *the Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, *Blood*, and *Annals of Oncology*.

At Trinity, you graduated Phi Beta Kappa with honors with a B.S. in biology. During your time 'neath the elms, in addition to being a member of Theta Xi, you took part in the 1968 two-day sit-in near the President's Office, where approximately 160 students demanded that the trustees consider a recent Senate proposal concerning scholarships for Black students. Your participation served as evidence of your uncompromising personal ethics and unyielding dedication to social justice.

You went on to earn an M.D., cum laude, from Yale University in 1973 and completed your internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1979, you headed to the West Coast and Stanford University for your clinical fellowship in medical oncology. Two years later, you moved north to British Columbia, Canada, where you embarked on a 38-year career targeted at treating and curing cancer.

In recognition of your groundbreaking research, your unfailing determination to triumph over cancer, and your lifelong dedication to healing, I have the honor of presenting you, Joseph M. Connors, for the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.