

John Vincent McLoughlin

Born in Cork city in 1931, Vincent McLoughlin, KM, MRIA, FFDRCSI, FTCD, PhD (Lond), MA (DU), MSc (NUI), pursued a career in science, driven by curiosity and imagination. After completing a BSc and MSc at University College Cork and PhD at the University of London, Vincent returned to Ireland to pursue a research career at An Foras Taluntais (the Agricultural Institute), before taking up a Chair and Fellowship at Trinity College Dublin in 1973. There he pursued research, became actively involved in the life of the University, drove forward change and inspired students and academics, particularly those at the start of their careers, to fulfil their potential. After retiring from Trinity in 1998, Vincent immersed himself in the new initiatives being taken by the Faculty of Dentistry in RCSI, playing a part in developing curriculum and examining. He engaged in these activities with great energy and enthusiasm.

The Vincent McLoughlin Prize is a great testimony to Vincent's beliefs. Throughout his life Vincent encouraged and inspired many students, colleagues, relatives, friends and neighbours to go beyond the limiting boundaries set by themselves and others, and instead to aspire, to believe in themselves and to question everything. One of his favourite quotes was from Vergil's opening to the *Aeneid*: 'Fortunate the person who can discover the causes of things (*Felix, qui potest rerum cognoscere causas*)'.