

## LAUDATION OF DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA JOSEP FIGUERAS

Josep Figueras is a leading health policy expert and health services researcher, one of the most recognized and influential figures of European and world health policy. He is the Founding Director of the *European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies*, a leading think tank in the EU, and Head of the *European Centre for Health Policy* of WHO. He obtained his medical degree in 1983 at the *University of Barcelona*, his specialization in family medicine in 1987 at the *University of Valencia*, a *Master of Public Health* degree in 1988 from the *University of Leeds*, and has a PhD in health economics from the *University of London*, where he worked as a lecturer and MSc course director in HSM. He worked in collaboration with all major multilateral organizations, such as the WB or the EC, and has served as an advisor in more than 40 countries within the European region and beyond. He is member of several advisory and editorial boards and a visiting professor of Imperial College, London. As recognition of his outstanding work, he was elected as honorary fellow of the UK faculty of public health medicine in 1998, and in 2006 he was awarded the Andrija Stampar Medal. He is also the president of the board of accreditation of the *Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation*.

His research focuses on comparative health system and policy analysis. He is the lead editor of the European Observatory series published by Open University Press, in the frame of which over 50 volumes have been published already. He is the originator and editor of the *Health Systems in Transition* series, which introduces health systems in a common comparative framework. He is the author of several momentous analytical volumes, such as the *Health systems, health, wealth and societal well-being. Assessing the case for investing in health systems; Purchasing to improve performance; Funding health care; and Critical challenges for European reform.*

For the recognition of his work, he has been awarded twice the EHMA's prize for the best annual publication on policy and management.

He supported Hungarian health reforms in numerous occasions. In a parliamentary conference, in 2007, he openly addressed the shortcomings of the planned competitive insurance model, stimulating a meaningful public debate, and he was the keynote speaker of the 2014 annual conference of the Hungarian Hospital Association.

His collaboration with Semmelweis University dates back to over 20 years, covering health financing, strategic purchasing, benefit package design, access to health services, health workforce migration, and cross border care. Thanks to the fruitful collaboration with Josep Figueras, in 2016, HSMTC was awarded the honourable title *WHO Collaborating Center*, in the area of health workforce migration.