

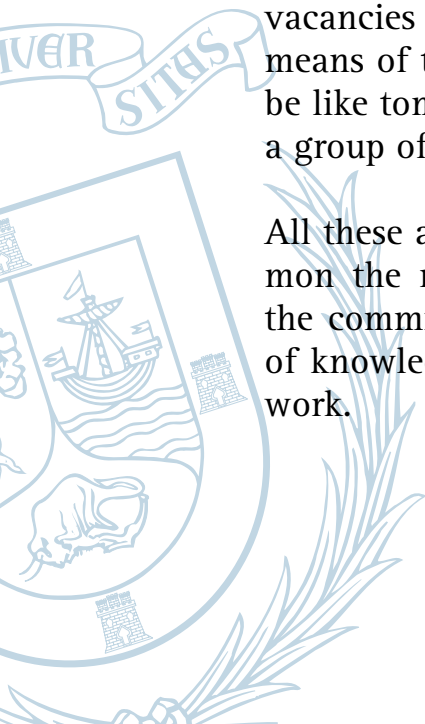
LAUDATIO OF PROFESSOR DOCTOR PETER HALL

Dear Rector, Dear Professor Hall, the Right Honourable President of the Government of Cantabria, distinguished colleagues from other universities, fellows from the University of Cantabria, Ladies and Gentlemen; all those who are present are aware of the outstanding academic and research curriculum of Professor Hall, therefore, if you will allow me, my speech will deal with other aspects that have to do with the occasion of this nomination proposal. I will of course finish with a review of the candidate's merits.

The proposal for the nomination of Doctor *Honoris Causa* of Professor Hall has been promoted by the Economics Departments; Statistics and Computing; and Applied Mathematics and Computing Sciences at our University, on the occasion of the commemoration in the year 2013 as the International Year of Statistics.

This commemoration is also an opportunity to highlight the richness and diversity of the statistical activity which takes place in the heart of the University of Cantabria. Economists, engineers and mathematicians; we try to approximate problems which are typical in our disciplines through the tools provided by theoretical statistics. At this University, statistics are used to explain very different phenomena, such as why the Challenger crashed, why the offer in female job vacancies is discontinuous, why individuals decide to travel in one means of transport and not in others, what the weather is going to be like tomorrow or the way in which income is distributed among a group of individuals.

All these activities, which are seemingly so different, have in common the rigorous use of statistical methodology, and ultimately, the commitment by all us who develop them in the advancement of knowledge to obtain excellence through serious and systematic work.



These characteristics, the taste for diversity, rigour, honesty and work, perfectly define the academic career of Professor Hall. Our candidate, from the time he obtained his Doctorate Degree at the University of Oxford, has exercised an enormous influence during almost 35 years on those who have worked on issues related to the theory of probability, non-parametric estimation and inference techniques or the estimation of functional data. In fact, some doctoral theses defended in the heart of our University are based on key outcomes established by Professor Hall in his more than 600 scientific publications. Proof of the candidate's research excellence is that out of all of this scientific production, more than 70 percent has been printed in the best journals related to the profession, and many of his publications are among the most cited.

This extraordinary curriculum has earned him, among many other honors, his nomination as Doctor *Honoris Causa* in the Universities of Leuven, Glasgow, and Sydney. He is also an Honorary Member of the American Statistical Association, the Royal Statistical Association, the Bernoulli Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, of which he has also been President-elect.

All of the above-mentioned is, in our opinion, more than enough reason to propose Professor Peter Gavin Hall as an *Honoris Causa* Doctor of our University, with the conviction that he is an ideal candidate, given that the principles which have guided his academic background (his taste for diversity in knowledge, rigour and excellence) are shared by all of our University community.

So, distinguished authorities and senate, once all these facts have been considered and presented, I would ask with all consideration, and strongly request that. Peter Hall be awarded and conferred the Supreme Degree of Doctor *Honoris Causa* by the University of Cantabria.

