

**Georges Belfort**  
**for the DScEng (honoris causa)**

Professor Georges Belfort graduated from UCT with a BSc in 1963, followed by master's and doctoral degrees from the University of California. He is considered one of the world's leading biochemical engineers. Over the course of a career which has spanned five decades, he has contributed to the advancement of science in three principal ways: firstly, through his own ground-breaking research, secondly as a teacher dedicated to sharing knowledge with the next generation of biochemical engineers, and finally as an author, editor, consultant and board member of a range of scientific organisations.

As a researcher Professor G Belfort's work has been described as transformational. In 2016 the American Institute of Chemical Engineers held a series of honorary lectures in recognition of Professor Belfort's role as a global expert in bioseparations. Joel Plawsky, head of the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute said at the time: "Georges has developed extraordinary membrane modules and membrane materials and is a pioneer in the use of inteins, with his wife, for separating biological molecules. He has also made significant contributions toward understanding the process by which proteins misfold and lead to fibrils. Protein fibrils are common and cause problems with storing and delivering insulin, but they are most commonly associated with Alzheimer's disease."

Professor G Belfort has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers, 22 book chapters and authored or co-authored three books. He has an exceptional *h* index of 64. Over the course of his career his work has been recognised with numerous awards, including the ACS E.V. Murphree Award in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, the AIChE Clarence Gerhold Award in Separation Science and Technology, and the ACS Award in Separation Science and Technology. In 2014 the Alan S. Michaels Award for Innovation in Membrane Science and Technology was bestowed upon him. This is an award given in recognition of individuals who have made outstanding innovations and/or exceptional lifetime contributions to membrane science and technology.

As an alumnus of UCT, Professor G Belfort has maintained contact with the Department of Chemical Engineering. The award of this honorary doctorate recognises and strengthens the link between UCT and the outstanding scholarship of Professor G Belfort.