

Dear Doctores Honoris Causa, Rector, Deans, Heads, Dear Doctores Promovendi and Dear Audience,

We are very proud to day to be able to include Professor Sir Michael Marmot as a new Dr Honoris Causa at NTNU. Sir Michael has been a source of inspiration to all four of us who have promoted his candidature: Professor Steinar Westin, Professor Steinar Krokstad, Professor Terje Andras Eikemo, and myself Geir Arild Espnes – but not only for us, but for thousands of other researchers around the world.

Even if Professor Michael Marmot has had a long outstanding and impressive research career, and has impacted international epidemiological research for four decades, he is possibly best known outside the research society for chairing WHO's World Commission on Social Determinants for Health and his Marmot Review "Fair Society Healthy Lives". Both these have had tremendous impact on the health equality and equity research around the world and several new research programs and projects have grown in the aftermath of this report. This work has, together with his books "The status Syndrome" and newest "The Health Gap", also had importance and impacted decision makers, our politicians and for forming public health policy.

Therefore he in 2015 also was appointed chair of the Commission of Equity and Health Inequalities in the Americas.

At NTNU Marmot's work is well known among all epidemiologists and public health researchers. We are at NTNU so lucky to have the HUNT project here. HUNT is a large epidemiological project started in the middle of the 1980-ies and with a first huge data collection in the Northernmost of the Trøndelag Counties. Large data collections have been carried through every 10 year since, and in 2017 and 2018 the fourth data collection will take place. Always inspired by the latest public health epidemiology, where Professor Marmot's work is of the most important.

I have myself had the honor of working with Michael Marmot on a large 13 country International EU project via NTNU Center for Health Promotion Research. The project is called INHERIT and is implementation research on how inter-sectorial collaboration, where we are thinking and working across all sectors, can have an effect on equity and sustainability in public health work. We are now one year in to the project and I am really optimistic. The Center is looking forward to a close collaboration also in the future.

We are also proud to announce to you all that Sir Michael has accepted to chair the board of CHAIN. CHAIN is a unique collaboration between UNICEF and NTNU.

CHAIN will provide essential evidence of importance to the Norwegian government and to other governments across the global North and global South. With a particular focus on children and their living conditions, CHAIN will identify social policies and interventions with the largest potential to reduce health inequalities in all world regions. It will bring together academia, the UN system, civil society and the private sector in a common organizational body to reduce the distance between research, policy and practice. Trondheim and NTNU can now be put on the map as a global leader in health inequality research through CHAIN, and under the firm guidance of Sir Michael Marmot.

So with these words I give you Professor Sir Michael Marmot.