



WSBS honorary degrees to a senior statesman and a scientific scholar

On the occasion of its 13th Commencement Convocation, the Watson School of Biological Sciences presented honorary degrees to Senator Tom Harkin and Dr. John Tooze.

Senator Harkin served for 10 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and five terms in the U.S. Senate, where his signature legislative achievement was the Americans with Disabilities Act. As chairman of the Senate panel that funds medical research, he was a champion of research on cardiovascular disease, cancer, Alzheimer's and other diseases. After succeeding Ted Kennedy as the Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in 2009, Senator Harkin retired from the Senate in 2015.

Dr. John Tooze is credited with invaluable contributions to the scientific enterprise. He served for 20 years as the Executive Secretary of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and oversaw scientific infrastructure at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund/Cancer Research UK in London and at Rockefeller University in New York City. Dr. Tooze has had notable influence in scientific publishing as Deputy Editor of *Nature* and founding editor of the *The EMBO Journal*. CSHL Press published his influential *The Molecular Biology of Tumor Viruses* in 1974. Dr. Tooze has collaborated with Jim Watson and others on books and textbooks on topics in DNA, recombinant DNA and protein structure.