

The following acceptance speech was delivered by D. Leach:

Thank you, Karen, President Relvas and Dr. Pasava.

I am deeply honored to receive the prestigious SGA Newmont Gold Medal. I am thankful to the SGA council and the nomination committee.

As a recipient of a career award, I recognize that professional success depends on the people that have been part of my life's journey. I view this award as a reflection of the exceptional people that I have worked with and the opportunities provided by organizations I have been associated with.

The study of ore deposits has been more than a profession or a job, it is a life style that I have approached with passion and excitement. The most difficult part of my journey has been trying to find a balance between my love for science and the most important love in my life-- my family. Fortunately, my wife Susan has been the rock of my family, understanding, encouraging and truly essential to my journey.

My journey began when I started graduate work under Alden Carpenter, a pioneer in the study of sedimentary brines that would become a foundation for understanding the genesis of sedimentary rock-hosted ore deposits. I was fortunate to have joined the USGS during its golden age of ore deposit research. My first projects included working on the giant polymetallic veins of the Coeur d'Alene district with Al Hofstra and Gary Landis, and on MVT deposits in North America with Don Sangster, Elisabeth Rowan, Dwight Bradley and John Viets. An adventurous and colorful time during my journey was the early work on orogenic gold systems with Rich Goldfarb- I could write a book on the "Goldfarb period." The most intensely productive period in my journey was the USGS Red Dog deposit project with Karen Kelley, Erin Marsh, Craig Johnson, John Slack, Julie Dumoulin and the Red Dog team. Lessons learned from the Red Dog studies provided the foundation for new perspectives on world sediment-hosted ores that included contributions from Dwight Bradley, Sergei Pisarevsky, David Huston, Ryan Taylor and Garth Graham.

A remarkable period of my journey began after I visited the University of Paris in the early nineties and met Professor Ghislain de Marsily. Thanks to Ghislain, I began a nearly 10-year period of collaboration on MVT deposits in Europe and North Africa --which marked my transition from a provincial perspective of MVT ore systems to global systems.

After retirement from the USGS in 2010, I am now enjoying a period of "re-discovering MVT systems"and learning about the importance of evaporites-bearing rocks in ore genesis with Song Yucai at the Chinese Academy of Geoscience in Beijing and Salah Bouhleb at the University of Tunis.

Finally, my career included working with SGA --- sharing time with dedicated and generous geologists to advance ore deposit studies and to help students move forward in their career. My time serving SGA will continue to be one of my most satisfying professional memories.

My great appreciation to SGA and Newmont for this recognition of my geological journey with my colleagues.