

SGA-Newmont Gold Medal 2021

Acceptance speech – Dr Richard J. Goldfarb

Thank you David Leach, President Huston, and SGA.

I am very honored to receive this prestigious Gold Medal from the SGA. Of course, I would love to have been able to have received the award in person because I always look forward to the biennial SGA conferences. Their diversity in topics, the broad international participation, and abundant student interactions have made these meetings events that I have looked forward to during much of my career. In addition, Tony Christie always organizes outstanding conferences within New Zealand and this would have been no exception. However, given the present Covid restrictions, I will simply enjoy the next four days of presentations over the internet and will now give my sincere thanks to SGA in a similar manner.

My career achievements reflect a rich and lengthy series of collaborations with many noteworthy and influential colleagues. In fact, obviously indicating SGA's successful history of leadership, three of my most important and long-term fruitful research interactions have been with three recent SGA presidents, David Leach, David Groves, and Karen Kelley.

David Leach and David Groves have been mentors for much of my career, without whose guidance I would not have accomplished the many successful studies that I am being recognized for. They both taught me how to get things done, recognize what is important in a research program, not to be afraid to give an opinion, and how to express oneself in a clear manner. David Leach first introduced me to our discipline, brought me to the USGS, and jump-started my career in Alaska. It was his direction and encouragement that led me to develop a clear understanding and a new model for orogenic gold formation in the North American Cordillera in the 1980s and 1990s. During my career in government science, there was no one better than David Leach to show me how to creatively get around restrictive bureaucracy so as to get the needed job done. I first met David Groves in 1997 and this opened a new chapter in my career leading to many holistic and creative studies looking at the big picture in global metallogeny. Spending time in Perth with David Groves at the Centre for Exploration Targeting allowed me to integrate what I had learned early in my career from the young North American Cordilleran orogen with his vast understanding of older mineral systems from around the world, which is a collaboration still ongoing today.

My 30+ years of work in the USGS's Alaska program was made highly enjoyable particularly though numerous collaborations with Karen Kelley. Teaming up with Karen over the many years to deal with various issues, such Alaskan logistics, funding, and difficult bosses, led to a long string of favorable and productive outcomes. And much of the successful studies across the vast and mostly remote state couldn't have been done without many of our great team members over the decades including Barrett "Mag" Cieutat, Carter "Jimmy" Borden, Elmer Pickthorn, Bob "Rollo" Eppinger, Erin Marsh, Ryan Taylor, and Garth Graham. More recently,

many contributions on China metallogeny could not have happened without collaborations with friends such as Kunfeng “QQ” Qiu, Jun Deng, and Jingwen Mao.

Finally, it seems I have been unable to say no to numerous editing responsibilities, which all began with SGA. David Leach’s mid-1990s initiative to make SGA more global in extent, led to my appointment as the first head editor of *Mineralium Deposita* outside of Europe from 1996-2002. Peter Herzig and Jan Pasava helped to get the new office up and running in Colorado, and David Rickard welcomed me as his co-chief editor of the journal. Through working closely with the latter, I improved my skills needed to be a perceptive and critical editor, and believe I was able to be influential in increasing the international scope and impact of the Society’s journal. After David Rickard’s retirement, I was able to enjoy a number of years co-editing with Bernd Lehman, who moved the journal forward into the digital age and amazingly is still on the job some 20 years later.

In closing, I’d like to acknowledge my wife Mary Angeline for her patience and support as I have kept on trucking to various global garden spots even after my supposed “retirement”. And once again, I am truly honored to accept this momentous recognition from SGA.

Richard J. Goldfarb