SGA-Newmont Gold Medal 2021

Citation of recipient Dr Richard J. Goldfarb by Dr D. Leach

Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen, I am most honored to introduce Dr. Richard J. Goldfarb – the eighth recipient of the SGA-NEWMONT GOLD MEDAL. This is our Society's highest award, recognizing exceptional career accomplishments in earth science and studies of ore deposits. I have known Rich for more than 40 years, first as a field assistant at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and later as a colleague in the U.S. Geological Survey. It has been a pleasure to witness Rich's accomplishments and his evolution to a world-class earth scientist.

Rich received his Bachelor's degree from Bucknell University in 1975 and his Master's degree from the University of Nevada in 1981. He was awarded his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 1988. He had a stellar career with the U.S. Geological Survey, ultimately becoming a senior research geologist and program leader in the Minerals Program. Prior to leaving the USGS in 2015, Rich provided scientific leadership in the Office of Mineral Resources and served as a Team Leader for many major national research efforts. Following his retirement from the U.S. Geological Survey, Rich is now a Research Professor at Colorado School of Mines and serves as an overseas professor at the China University of Geosciences and as an international consultant to the minerals industry.

Rich's scientific contributions are extensive and broad. He authored more than 250 publications on diverse topics that include orogenic gold, global metallogeny, tectonics, polymetallic veins, magmatic copper systems, exploration geochemistry and secular changes in mineral systems. His early USGS research on orogenic gold systems in Alaska brought together field observations with laboratory investigations. This groundbreaking work defined the links between the timing of orogenic gold mineralization and orogenic events. The results became the foundation for his global synthesis of orogenic gold systems and the role of metamorphism in gold metallogeny. Rich's research yielded major breakthroughs in understanding the genetic processes and keys to exploration for gold in metamorphic rocks. He defined the nature and distribution of orogenic gold deposits in a plate tectonic framework through Earth history. His review papers are considered the "gold standards" for orogenic gold deposits. Rich's

accomplishments led to numerous recognitions including the SEG Silver Medal, SEG Thayer Lindsley Lecturer, the SEG International Exchange Lecturer and the Honorary Meritorious Service Award from the USGS.

He is one of the most accomplished editors and reviewers in economic geology. Rich served as the editor of Mineralium Deposita (1996−2002) and additional editorial boards including Acta Geologica Sinica (2014−2016), Economic Geology (2007−present), Geochemistry−Exploration, Environment, Analysis (2000−present), and Gondwana Research (2005−present). He has been the editor in chief or co-editor for over 20 high-impact monographs and special publications. including the Economic Geology 100th Anniversary Volume.

He served as President of SEG and received numerous recognitions, including the Geological Society of Australia's Distinguished Lecturer in Economic Geology, The SEG Silver medal recipient, the 18th Ralph Roberts Distinguished Lecturer in Ore Deposits. Nevada (2012) and the Kutina-Smirnov Medal of IAGOD (2014). In recognition of his generous volunteerism and enthusiasm for workshops, committees, and editorial duties, Rich was presented the SEG Marsden Award in 2012.

Throughout his scientific career, Rich has been involved in student training and supervising graduate students at the University of Colorado, the University of British Columbia, the University Western Australia, and the Colorado School of Mines. Over the past decades, Rich has served as a mentor to hundreds of young geologists, advising them on graduate work and career opportunities.

In the past decades, few individuals have shaped the world of economic geology as much as Rich Goldfarb. His contributions advanced our profession and enriched our understanding of ore-forming processes and changed the way we study ore deposits. Richard Goldfarb's career exemplifies what the SGA-Newmont Gold Medal represents.

D. Leach