Lluís Fontboté receives the 2023 SGA – Newmont Gold Medal

Lluís Fontboté stands out as a leading geoscientist in the field of economic geology —internationally, in Europe and in Switzerland. His extensive work in Peru shaped our present knowledge of the ore geology of this Andean country more than anyone else. Over his long career, Lluís has combined fundamental research into ore-forming processes in diverse geological environments with critical societal and environmental study on all parts of the mineral resource cycle. He is a pre-eminent educator who has instilled in numerous young scientists, now leading professionals, the importance of understanding geological process as a foundation of practical application to exploration and mining.

Lluís is a rigorous and original researcher with close industry contacts who has led detailed investigations of an exceptional variety of ore deposit types: Mississippi Valley-type and sedex lead-zinc, Cordilleran-type lead-zinc-silver-copper, skarn gold, iron oxide-copper-gold, vein tin-copper, orogenic gold, porphyry copper-gold, supergene exotic copper, and polymetallic volcanic-hosted massive sulfide deposits. Among his most influential work is his decade-long study of Cordilleran deposits. With his international team of students and colleagues, he used rigorous field observation and quantitative laboratory analysis to demonstrate that these diverse Pb-Zn-Ag-Cu-Au deposits are part of much larger-scale porphyry – epithermal systems, which formed by interaction of magmatic-hydrothermal fluids with a variety of host rock types. He attracted students from Peru’s mining environment and elsewhere to the rigorous Swiss education system, training some of the most influential practitioners and academics currently active in South America. Being a very modest person, Lluís always left first-authorship of the resulting papers to his younger colleagues, even though he carried the long-term intellectual lead with his broad vision and extensive geological experience.

Lluís’ educational excellence is best known to all of us who have been fortunate to join one of his big field excursions, involving long days and never taking ‘no’ for an answer, and which always involve local students and mining companies. Besides his research and teaching, Lluís is a prominent university leader in Switzerland; he was a founding member of the professorial group that linked two somewhat disparate schools in western Switzerland (Geneva and Lausanne) to become the now world-renowned *Ecole Lémanique des Science de la Terre*. Internationally, one of Lluís’ influential educational achievements was the expansion and decade-long guidance of the ***Curso Latinoamericano de Metalogenía SEG-SGA-UNESCO,*** which brought cutting-edge international thinking about ore formation to students and young professionals in Latin America.

Lluís Fontboté’s lasting contribution to global resource policy is the *Geochemical Perspectives* booklet entitled *Future Global Mineral Resources*, which he initiated as a collaborative project by bringing together leading ore geologists and resource specialists (authored alphabetically as Arndt et al., 2017). Based on solid observation and empirical research, they demonstrated to a broad readership that scarcity in the supply of critical metals is not a frightening geological limitation but primarily a challenge to technical development, market forces and human behaviour.

Dear Lluís, we are overjoyed that SGA has decided to honour you with this year’s Gold Medal. We all congratulate you and wish you well as a wonderful friend!

Christoph Heinrich