



Association of Applied Geochemists

www.appliedgeochemists.org

IN MEMORIAM: ERIC HOFFMAN

It is with great sadness that the AAG marks the passing of Dr. Eric Hoffman in July of this year. Eric was a Fellow of the Association and a Gold Medal recipient in 2013. He began his working career in 1978 at McMaster University (Canada) where he helped develop one of the first commercial instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA) laboratories in the world. This endeavour led to the formation of his own company in 1987: Activation Laboratories Ltd, or Actlabs,



which provided commercial analyses to the mineral exploration industry. Actlabs diversified into materials testing in 1994, forensic applications in 1996, pharmaceuticals in 2003 and, more recently, geometalurgy, petroleum exploration and refining, and environmental/occupational health and agriculture. Eric was an innovator. He began with the development of new INAA techniques, successfully adopted inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICPMS) and high-resolution ICPMS in a commercial

laboratory, and introduced proprietary analytical services, such as Enzyme Leach and Soil Gas Hydrocarbons (SGH), for mineral exploration. Actlabs has grown a single facility to an international company with 30 laboratories operating in 12 countries while remaining a business his family is deeply involved in. Eric will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues. More information can be found on the Actlabs website (www.actlabs.com) and a more extensive summary of Eric's many achievements will be published in the *Explore* magazine and on the AAG web site.

Dale Sutherland (DaleSutherland@actlabs.com)
Director of Research, Activation Laboratories Ltd.

AAG MEDAL RECIPIENTS

The AAG awarded three medals at its 2015 International Applied Geochemistry Symposium held in Tucson, Arizona (USA). The Gold Medal is awarded for outstanding scientific achievement in applied geochemistry, and the Silver Medal is awarded to an AAG member for dedicated service to the association.

Colin Dunn Citation for AAG 2014 Gold Medal

Dr. Colin Dunn has worked tirelessly for decades in advancing the field of biogeochemistry applied to exploration. In this field, he is the preeminent world leader. Many geoscientists have been mentored by Colin over the last several decades. His work has been documented through over 200 peer-reviewed publications, as well as presentations at international venues, short courses, and informal conversations with many prospectors, geologists, and geochemists, and through the publication of his definitive book on the subject, *Biogeochemistry in Mineral Exploration* (2007; Elsevier). Colin has assisted commercial analytical laboratories in the development of analytical techniques and in the establishment of analytical control materials. Furthermore, he has been a long-standing member and fellow of the AAG, a past AAG councillor, and has volunteered on numerous AAG committees. As an applied geochemist, Colin has been a stalwart for the geochemistry profession in general and for biogeochemistry in particular.

Ravi Anand Citation for AAG 2015 Gold Medal

Dr. Ravi Anand has developed a vast knowledge on regolith geoscience processes, landscape evolution, and secondary dispersion in deeply weathered terranes, and he has applied this knowledge to mineral exploration. Understanding the regolith is critical for correctly interpreting soil geochemistry, and Ravi's research on the subject has involved numerous empirical field studies combined with extensive laboratory experiments. His research has resulted in significant and lasting changes to the philosophy and practice of geochemical exploration in the deeply weathered terranes of Australia and elsewhere and has contributed directly to major mineral discoveries. A fellow of the AAG, Dr. Anand served as the association's Distinguished Lecturer in 2013–2014, giving presentations on several continents. Dr. Anand is presently a chief research scientist at CSIRO Mineral Resources Flagship and an adjunct professor at Curtin University (Australia).



From left to right: Matt Leybourne, AAG President; Colin Dunn; Beth McClenaghan in center; Ravi Anand; Ryan Noble, AAG Vice-president.

Beth McClenaghan Citation for AAG 2015 Silver Medal

This year's Silver Medallist is Beth McClenaghan, who thoroughly deserves this reward. Beth has been an AAG Fellow for some 23 years. During this time, she has served the association as a councillor; has organized numerous workshops in conjunction with our IAGS symposia, including this present one; has served on IAGS organizing committees; and has chaired sessions for same. She is currently Editor of the association's newsletter, *EXPLORE*, a position Beth has held since 2005. This newsletter is extremely important for promoting the association, as a vehicle for disseminating information to AAG members, and for promoting the science of applied geochemistry. Under Beth, the newsletter has been enhanced on several fronts. Beth was instrumental in getting all of the association newsletters—from the earliest 1970s to the present—digitized, on-line, and available for download from the AAG website. Beth is also an accomplished scientist with the Geological Survey of Canada, specializing in the use of indicator minerals in exploration. Having known her professionally for some 20 years, it is a true honor for me to present the 2015 AAG Silver Medal to Beth McClenaghan.

Robert G. Eppinger
Chair, AAG Awards and Medals Committee