

# Past Presidents Memorial Medal

## For setting an outstanding example to young people

The gold medal was established in 1959. The medal is donated by Janet C. Cole, as a memorial to her late husband, Lt. Col. George Edwards Cole, CIM President, 1936-37, who, until his death in December 1957, greatly contributed his time and effort in fostering the welfare of the younger members of the Institute.

### CURRENT WINNER(S)

#### James Siddorn

Toronto, ON



*"In recognition of leadership and excellence in the field of Structural Geology."*

## Globe-trotting geologist inspires the next generation

By Sandra Phinney

James Siddorn, a practice leader with SRK Consulting, keeps busy, travelling around the world to destinations from China to the Philippines, Australia, Ghana and Peru, to fulfill his professional passion: helping steer projects by imparting his expertise in structural geology – and pursue one of his favourite hobbies – discovering the world. But he still makes time for his other passion, which is teaching and inspiring the next generation of geologists.

At his day job, Siddorn helps companies around the world understand the geological controls on the distribution of mineralization at sites in various stages of exploration. For example, a collaborative project that he spearheaded with Sumitomo in March 2010 in central Alaska, resulted in the discovery of a significant new gold zone. "Another outcome was a regional structural interpretation, which, in turn, has provided Sumitomo with a better understanding of targeting gold mineralization between the Liese and 4021 zone," he reports.

For Siddorn, the greatest challenge is to decipher the geology of a project in a short space of time and to deliver practical results that clients can build upon, while trying to save them money and to increase their probability of success. "I am very satisfied when we can deliver results to a client that result in a new discovery or just move a project ahead rapidly," he says.

Both on his travels and on the home front, Siddorn goes the extra mile to support young people pursuing or contemplating a career in the industry by volunteering his time and delivering courses on his area of expertise. Siddorn is a member of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's (PDAC) convention committee, assisting with the organization of short courses and technical sessions for the group's annual event. He also offers his time to the Canadian Mining Innovation Council's (CMIC) exploration initiative. "At CMIC, we try to bring industry and academia together to advance innovation with the mining industry," he explains. "Our focus is on how to discover deposits more efficiently or how to detect the footprint of the deposit with limited data."

He has delivered more than 30 applied structural geology courses since 2005 as well. Some are provided to clients on site, and other are delivered at conferences including the Association of Mining Exploration of

British Columbia's (AMEBC) Exploration Roundup, at Society of Economic Geologists events, and other industry association events. "They are always different – some slightly, some a great deal – depending on the audience and the setting," he explains.

Students often ask Siddorn for advice on pursuing a career in geology. He tells them: "Get a well-rounded education, including post graduate studies. But make sure that the research you're doing is either directly related to industry or in collaboration with industry. It's also important to get overseas out of your comfort zone. The experience of working with different cultures in different countries is a great education in itself!"

## **Biography**

James Siddorn is a practice leader (Structural Geology) with SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc. He is a specialist in the structural geological analysis of ore deposits, focused on deciphering the deposit-scale and district-scale controls on mineralization, geotechnical domains, and hydrogeological pathways. He provides expert advice to a wide range of exploration and mining companies worldwide.

Siddorn completed a bachelor's in geology at the University of Durham, UK, and a master's and a PhD Structural Geology at the University of Toronto. He joined SRK Consulting in 2001 as an associate consultant, moving to senior consultant in 2004 and principal consultant and practice leader in 2009. Prior to joining SRK, Siddorn worked for Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners Ltd., UK, and the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Geological Survey of Canada at the Giant and Con underground gold mines in the Northwest Territories. Siddorn is registered with the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Ontario.

He volunteers with numerous societies related to mineral exploration and mining, including the Society of Economic Geology and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. Siddorn is currently a member of the PDAC convention committee and has focused on providing training courses at numerous conventions in Canada and worldwide, teaching more than 30 applied structural geology courses to over 1000 geologists and engineers.