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THE PAST PRESIDENTS' MEDAL FOR 1989 TO ROBERT W. KERRICH

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce your Past Presidents' Medalist for 1989. This medal is awarded annually for excellence in research to a scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the mineralogical sciences in Canada. This year, our medalist is Dr. Robert W. Kerrich of the University of Saskatchewan, whose scientific accomplishments richly deserve this recognition.

Rob Kerrich joined the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan in 1987 as the first George J. McLeod Professor of Geology. He was born in England, receiving the B.Sc. (Hons. 1971) from the University of Birmingham and the M.Sc. (1972) and Ph.D. (1975) from Imperial College, London. He came to North America in 1975 as a NATO Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Western Ontario, where he became Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor, with a period at the California Institute of Technology as a Visiting Professor.

Rob's research interests have made him preeminent in three distinct but related fields; ore deposits, stable-isotope geochemistry, and fracture mechanics. His work has resulted in 78 refereed publications in thirteen years, a rate of six per year, plus nine summary articles and chapters in books. However, it is not the sheer weight of numbers that brings him to the podium today, it is the outstanding quality of his work, and his unusual versatility. His continuing work on the genesis of Archean gold deposits involves the integrated use of field and laboratory data to examine and interpret the distribution of minerals and solutions near ore deposits. This work has led to a quantitative description of the processes that concentrate gold from circulating metamorphic fluids. He has pursued this topic farther, becoming interested in tracing the transport mechanisms of dissolved solutes in rocks and ores through use of isotopic techniques. These studies, besides being of interest in economic geology, have important consequences for the problems of underground disposal of nuclear waste. In addition to these 'chemical' geological topics, Dr. Kerrich has addressed in detail the mechanisms of fracture and flow in rocks, especially processes involving stress-corrosion cracking and superplastic behavior. Rob Kerrich possesses, as you can see, an unusually inquiring mind and an immense store of energy to bring to bear on problems that interest him.

In 1987 Dr. Kerrich received an E.W.R. Steacie Fellowship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, becoming the fifth earth scientist to be so recognized. He has received the Florence Buck Science Prize of the University of Western Ontario and the W.H. Gross Award of the Mineral Deposits Division of the Geological Association of Canada in 1988. The Mineralogical Association of Canada is proud to be able this year to award its premier prize, the Past Presidents' Medal, to Dr. Robert W. Kerrich for excellence in research in the mineralogical sciences.

Hugh J. Greenwood
Past President

Thank you, Hugh, for your generous citation and kind remarks: it is a pleasure to be amongst you all today. As a recipient of the Past President's Medal of the Mineralogical Association of Canada, I am privileged and honored, and duly grateful to the members of the Association for the recognition embodied in this award.

Over the years I have had the good fortune to have been associated with eminent scientists and mentors, notably Bill Fyfe, Neville Price, John Ramsay and Brian Fryer, who taught me critical thinking and in-

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terdisciplinary research, and stimulated my interest in subjects as diverse as fracture mechanics, analytical techniques, and geochemistry: their inspiration and insights have greatly influenced my own research.

Both of the institutes where I have worked, initially the University of Western Ontario and currently the University of Saskatchewan, have provided the resources and encouragement to foster research: I am grateful to my colleagues in these institutes. One of my first tasks at the University of Western Ontario was to build a light stable isotope laboratory. These facilities allowed our group there to address many intriguing geological problems, and provided the opportunity for collaboration with geologists, both nationally and internationally. The nature of modern geochemical research is such that teams of scientists are often necessary to undertake projects; I have been fortunate to have collaborated with many talented colleagues who deserve a share in the recognition of this award. It is essential also to acknowledge the many graduate students with whom I have been associated. Their diligence, questioning and enthusiasm have made both teaching and research a pleasure.

Robert W. Kerrich
University of Saskatchewan