

Medal of Merit

The Medal of Merit has been awarded since 1952 and is the most prestigious and oldest technical award of the Association. The Medal is awarded annually for the best peer reviewed paper on a geological subject related to the petroleum geology, or the geology of energy generation and extraction, of Canada. The stated objectives of the Medal of Merit Award are to promote the preparation and publication of geological papers of high quality, to give honorable recognition to works of merit, and by means of suitable publicity, to bring the attention of the members and of the public to the activities of the geological petroleum profession by awarding the Medal of Merit annually for the best paper.

Award criteria:

- A paper considered for the Medal of Merit must deal with some problem or problems related to the geology of the sedimentary areas of Canada, and must have obvious relevance and impact on geology related to energy generation and extraction. Papers reporting scientific inquiry in areas such as sedimentary processes, facies relationships, stratigraphic correlations, or those in paleontology, paleoecology, diagenesis, mineralogy, geochemistry, sedimentary provenance, structure, regional tectonics, geomechanics, basin modelling, geocellular modelling, hydrogeology, hydro geochemistry, geothermics and petroleum migration are examples of studies eligible for the award. As the Association expands into other areas of energy and related sub-disciplines, the Medal of Merit Committee will evaluate geological papers on appropriate energy related topics.
- Papers more directly concerned with production problems (engineering focused) and with geophysics will not be considered eligible for the award except where direct implications for petroleum geology are recognized. Papers that rely on geophysical data and interpretations to define the geology are eligible, but solely technical geophysical papers are not.
- Papers and memoirs appearing within the previous calendar year in Canadian geological publications (including Federal/ Provincial Survey publications, and those of all Canadian geological societies) will be eligible for the award and will be reviewed routinely.
- Papers published outside of Canada in major international publications will be eligible. The publications of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, including their Bulletin, will be reviewed routinely.
- Eligibility for the award is not contingent on the author's membership in CEGA or residence in Canada.
- Papers are eligible for the award in the year they are published. As such, the Committee reviews papers published in the previous calendar year.
- Papers shall be judged on the basis of:
 - Relevance and Impact to Canadian Energy Geology.
 - This is a mandatory criterion. The winning paper must have some relationship with energy geology and should have at least a paragraph explaining the practical relationship and impact of the work on energy geology (how

does the paper relate to the exploration, exploitation, prediction, or extraction of energy). An implicit relationship to energy geology is not sufficient for the award. For example, detailed sedimentologic and stratigraphic studies are undertaken to better understand the subsurface, but often a clear link as to how the study could or should be applied to the exploration, exploitation, prediction or extraction of energy or energy reservoirs is not included. However, this link does not need to be the sole focus of the winning paper and a brief explanation is sufficient to link the study with petroleum geology. As geology of energy evolves, the award may evolve to include new and related areas and ideas e.g. aquifer studies for the purposes of sourcing ground water for hydraulic fracking.

- Generally, the larger and more regional the study, the more relevance and impact on Canadian energy geology the paper are likely to have. That is not to say that key insights cannot be gained from studies in a small area or even single well studies if the results can be applied across a larger area and/or the broader 'impact' clearly demonstrated.
- New/ Novel Ideas.
 - The winning paper should generally explore new or novel ideas, or investigate a generally under-published topic. No specific rule exists restricting the number of awards given to an author or research group, although the paper must meet this criterion. For example, research groups often publish a series of papers on a specific topic, and the Committee will ensure the award be given only once for a specific topic, unless a new/ novel idea or approach is taken which meets all other criteria.
- Clear Use of the Scientific Method.
 - Demonstrate the scientific method by clearly stating the problem(s) being investigated, hypothesis and/ or theory being tested, followed by scope and methodology, data collected, interpretations and conclusions. Separation of observations and interpretation should be clear. Publication in peer reviewed journals typically ensures these criteria are met, but this must be demonstrated. A clear explanation of the methods and assumptions used in the study should be included. It needs to be readily apparent that evidence is well organized and presented, and that the subject has been comprehensively and systematically researched.
- Writing Quality.
 - A well written scientific article takes time to create, and the impact on quality is large. The winning paper should be written clearly, simply and should have no grammatical or spelling errors.

- Figure Quality.
 - Clear, well-illustrated and annotated figures that aid in the explanation and interpretation of the article should be included. The quality of the figures must be high for the paper to receive the award. Out of focus core photos without scales and maps without legends are indicators of poor quality figures, but this is generally subjective.
- “Shareability” with Peers and other Geologists
 - This is also subjective, but the Committee members should see enough value in the winning paper to be able to recommend the paper to their colleagues. This award should reward work that can be passed around a subsurface team, be provided to a student to study, or be given as the first thing to read when transferred onto a new project.

Ideally, the winning paper shall be related to Canadian energy geology and receive full recognition in the above categories.

The papers shall be judged by a Committee composed of at least three, or more, volunteer judges selected by the Chairperson.

Nominee Eligibility

There are no restrictions as to who may be considered for the Medal of Merit. Nominees may be individuals or teams and do not need to be members of the CEGA nor reside in Canada.

Nomination Procedure

Nomination is not required to win the award as the committee actively searches for eligible papers, although nomination will ensure a paper is reviewed by the committee. Please complete a nomination form on the Medal of Merit page on the website, or send an email to the Chair of the Medal of Merit Committee (in care of the CEGA office at membership@cegageos.ca) nominating a paper that, in the opinion of the nominator, meets the criteria listed above. Important information for the Committee includes the title of the paper, a list of authors and the journal details in which it is published.