



CAR GOLD MEDAL AWARD 2012 DR. LOUISE SAMSON

This year's Gold Medal Award recipient is Dr. Louise Samson for her illustrious career in radiology, her determination as an innovative and open-minded leader, and for her invaluable and tireless contributions to medical education and to the Canadian Association of Radiologists.

Dr. Samson has authored 13 book chapters, 55 peer-reviewed publications, and 58 posters, in her capacity as a subspecialty pulmonary radiologist, and in her field of medical education. She has delivered 79 invited lectures, and has been a visiting professor, both nationally and internationally, a remarkable 23 times. It is in medical education, however, that Dr. Samson has truly distinguished herself as a worthy Gold Medal Award recipient. During her tenure as Chair of the Examination Board at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) from 1998 to 2006, Dr. Samson introduced a number of novel refinements to the certification exam, including the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) component, which at the time was a world first for a certification exam in any specialty. It is, of course,

still in active use today. From 2000 to 2004, she was also Vice-President of the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Sector of the RCPSC. Within that capacity, she helped to implement a new MOC Program in 2000.

Prior to this, Dr. Samson served as Program Director for a total of two terms split between the universities of Sherbrooke and Montreal. She was chair of the Curriculum Committee for all Undergraduate Medical Studies at University of Montreal from 1992 to 1999. During that time, she introduced Problem-Based Learning (PBL) for the entire faculty of medicine, displaying once again her level of service and innovation beyond diagnostic imaging. From 2005 to 2006, Dr. Samson chaired the redesign of a new curriculum at the University of Montreal which integrated CanMEDS material into curricula for undergraduate and post-graduate as well as DPC for the entire faculty.

Following her term as a member of the RSNA Educational Council from 1999 to 2010, where Dr. Samson garnered great respect from educators from around the world, Dr. Samson joined the CAR as Chair of its CPD Working Group in 2009. Her professional qualifications were unparalleled in the CAR membership to lead this group. Perhaps equally important was her desire and determination to help build the best program possible for the future of the Association and the members of the Association, not to mention the future members of our profession and specialty. She has been instrumental not only in maintaining, but improving the CAR's accrediting agent status with the RCPSC and guiding groups throughout Canada in developing CPD courses of the highest standards. During her many years as a member of the CAR, Dr. Samson has been active on countless committees and activities. According to both the CAR Board as well as the staff at the CAR office, working with Dr. Samson has always been an outstanding experience. The products of her efforts and her ability elevate all she worked with to the highest levels of achievement, is a testament to her qualities as a thinker, planner and leader.

Finally, and arguably most significantly, Dr. Samson served as President of the RCPSC from 2006 to 2008, making her the first radiologist in the history of the organization to hold the prestigious title. During her tenure, she organized the governance of the RCPSC, and also led a comprehensive strategic planning exercise. The latter will have a major impact on the Royal College's work over the next 5-10 years, and will thereby impact every radiologist and specialist physician in the country.

There is no doubt that many generations of radiologists and physicians will benefit from Dr. Samson's seminal work in medical education. Her work has, and continues to be, innovative in difficult areas of enquiry, is selfless in its broad scope, and is rooted in a thorough understanding of educational theory and practice which is quite unique in the specialty of radiology. Dr. Samson is arguably one of the most influential medical educators of her generation and the CAR is honoured to present her with this year's CAR Gold Medal Award.

Dr. James Fraser
President, Canadian Association of Radiologists
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