



Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists Presents 2010 Gold Medal Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 22, 2010

(OTTAWA, ON) – The Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP) honoured this year’s winner of the Gold Medal Award in a special ceremony at its annual scientific meeting held in Ottawa, Ontario.

The Gold Medal is the highest award given by COMP and recognizes an active or retired member who has worked mainly in Canada, has had an outstanding career and has made a significant contribution to the field of medical physics in Canada. A significant contribution is defined as one or more of the following:

- A body of work which has added to the knowledge base of medical physics in such a way as to fundamentally alter the practice of medical physics.
- Leadership positions in medical physics organizations which have led to improvements in the status and public image of medical physicists in Canada
- Significant influence on the professional development of the careers of medical physicists in Canada through educational activities or mentorship

This year, the Gold Medal was bestowed upon Aaron Fenster, PhD, FCCPM. Aaron received his PhD in 1976 from the University of Toronto and then began his first academic appointment at the Department of Radiology and Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto. In 1987 he moved to London and was the founding Director of the Imaging Research Laboratories (IRL) at the Robarts Research Institute and is a professor at the University of Western Ontario. Over the past 22 years, Aaron has built the Robarts Imaging Laboratories into an internationally recognized group of over 220 staff by employing a leadership style that encourages collaboration, clinical involvement and entrepreneurship.

In addition to his leadership at Robarts, he was the founder of the new interdisciplinary graduate program in Biomedical Engineering at Western and is also Chair of the Science Division of the Department of Medical Imaging at Western. This Division combines the strengths in imaging research across London’s institutions, making the London medical imaging research community one of the largest in the world. His efforts have resulted in the establishment of the Western Centre for Biomedical Imaging and funding for two major Cancer imaging initiatives from the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research: the Imaging Pipeline Platform and the 1mm Challenge.

Aaron is also the co-founder of Enhanced Vision Systems (EVS), a successful micro-CT company that was eventually sold to General Electric. For the past 15 years, Aaron has focused on the development of 3D ultrasound imaging. The technology developed in this research area has been licensed commercially to companies who are distributing it world-wide for cancer therapy and research.

Aaron’s research has resulted in 34 patents (25 awarded and 9 pending) and the formation of two companies: Life Imaging Systems Inc. and Enhanced Vision Systems Inc. In addition, Aaron has trained over 50 graduate students and fellows and is a prolific publisher, with over 225 peer-reviewed papers, and 450 conference proceedings. He is regularly in demand as a keynote speaker around the globe.

His contributions have been recognized by a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Biomedical Engineering and, in 2007, he received the Ontario Premier’s Award for Innovative Leadership. Aaron has also played a leadership role in the medical physics profession, serving as Chair of COMP in 1993 and 1994. Aaron has served the Canadian medical physics community well and is a worthy recipient of the COMP Gold Medal award.

For further information, please contact:

Nancy Barrett, CAE
Executive Director
613-599-1948
nancy@medphys.ca