

Announcing the Annual AEHS Foundation Achievement Awards

The Annual International Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, and Air is pleased to announce the recipients of the AEHS Foundation Achievement Award. This award is presented to individuals or organizations that have shown significant contributions to the field as well as outstanding environmental stewardship. This year's winners are John A. Cherry, Ph.D., PE, FRSC, Director of the University Consortium for Field-Focused Groundwater Research, University of Guelph, and Dr. Charles Newell, Ph.D., P.E., Vice President of GSI Environmental Inc.



Dr. John Cherry holds geological engineering degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and the University of California, Berkeley as well as a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Illinois. He currently is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Guelph, Canada, where he is Director at the University Consortium for Field-Focused Groundwater Research and Associate Director of the G360 Institute for Groundwater Research. He holds the title of Distinguished Emeritus Professor, University of Waterloo, Canada, where he was based from 1971-2006 and is an Honorary Professor at the University of Hong Kong. He has received many awards and honors from scientific and professional organizations in Canada, the USA, and UK. In 2016, he was awarded the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize (Singapore) for global contributions to groundwater science and technology.

John is a Foreign Member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Neuchatel. He was the Chair (2012-2014) of the Canadian Expert Panel on Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Development (fracking). He is an advisor to the Government of Singapore and is Co-chair of the International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Science (CRAES), which is part of the China Ministry of Environmental Protection. His current research involves collaborative studies of: 1) the chemical evolution of natural and contaminated groundwater in unfractured and fractured aquifers and aquitards, 2) advancement of engineered monitoring systems for groundwater flow and hydrogeochemistry, and 3) use of portable drills to create small capacity wells for safe drinking water in developing countries. As a follow-up to the 1979 textbook Groundwater (by Freeze and Cherry), he initiated a project in 2017 involving more than 100 experts from 12 countries on five continents to create an online comprehensive groundwater textbook with supporting learning materials for global availability free of charge.

Dr. Charles Newell is a Vice President of GSI Environmental Inc. He is a member of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, a NGWA Certified Ground Water Professional, and an Adjunct Professor at Rice University. He has co-authored five EPA publications, 12 environmental decision support software systems, numerous technical articles, four patents, and two books, including Natural Attenuation of Fuels and Chlorinated Solvents. His professional expertise includes site characterization, groundwater modeling, risk assessment, natural attenuation, LNAPL/DNAPL issues, remediation, management of PFAS sites, environmental software development, long-term monitoring, and tech transfer projects. He has served as a Principal or Co-Principal Investigator for numerous environmental research and development projects for the Dept. of Energy, American Petroleum Institute, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defense and industrial clients. Dr. Newell has been awarded the Hanson Excellence of Presentation Award by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Outstanding Presentation Award by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and the 2001 Wesley W. Horner Award by the American Society of Civil Engineers; the 2008 Outstanding Alumni Award from Rice University; Strategic Research and Development Program (SERDP) 2014 Project of the Year as a Co-PI, the ITRC Environmental Excellence Award in 2016, and the 2020 Foundation Achievement Award presented by the Association for Environmental Health and Science.

