Introduction

Dr. John L. Hamerton moved to Winnipeg in 1969 to create the Winnipeg Children's Hospital's first human genetics department. He established an international reputation as a researcher, making major contributions in prenatal diagnosis, cytogenetics and ethical issues relating to the Human Genome Project. He was a founding member and former President of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists. He also served as President of both the American Society of Human Geneticists and the Genetics Society of Canada. He was made a distinguished professor at the University of Manitoba in 1987. Upon his retirement he was named Distinguished Professor Emeritus in 1997. That same year he became a member of the Royal Society of Canada. In 2003 he was named an Officer of the Order of Canada. Dr. Hamerton died on February 9, 2006.

As a tribute to Dr. Hamerton’s countless contributions throughout his many years as an active member of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists, the CCMG Distinguished Service Award was renamed the John L. Hamerton Service Award in 2007.

The John L. Hamerton Service Award is conferred in recognition of diligently rendered services to the CCMG over a sustained period of time, allowing the development and the maintenance of the tradition of excellence of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists.

Terms of Reference

- Nominations will be solicited at the same time as those for the F. Clarke Fraser Award for Excellence in Mentorship and Teaching and the Founders’ Award for Career Achievement, although nominations may be addressed to the Awards and Nomination Committee at any time during the year.

- Nominations should include a brief curriculum vitae of the candidate and letters of support signed by two regular or Emeritus members of the CCMG. Nominations received after the deadline announced by the CCMG office will be considered for the following year.

- In the event of more than one suitable nomination, the remaining nominees may be considered along with new applications in subsequent year(s).

- The recipient of the award will be announced at the annual general meeting of the CCMG. The recipient will not be required to pay the fees for conference registration and the Gala.