



### **AGS Distinguished Scientist Award. Gesner Medal 2018**

#### **Reginald A. Wilson**

It is my pleasure to nominate Reg Wilson as a candidate worthy of receiving the Gesner Medal. I got to know Reg well when we first worked together mapping in a remote area of the Bathurst Mining Camp many years ago. I can attest to the fact that Reg has a strong work ethic, thoroughly enjoys his time in the field, and is a keen scientific observer. Reg's scientific publications includes seven first-authored and ten co-authored journal papers published in Canadian Journal of Earth Science, American Journal of Science, Geological Society of America Bulletin, Tectonophysics, Atlantic Geology, Journal of Sedimentary Research, and the Journal of Paleontology. He has also produced twenty government reports and one hundred thirty-seven geologic maps ranging in scale from 1:20,000 to 1:250,000. His many contributions to the understanding of the geological evolution of the northern Appalachian Orogen in New Brunswick are outlined below (with a list of selected references).

Reg began his scientific career with the New Brunswick Geological Survey in 1986, mapping the Silurian to Early Devonian sedimentary and volcanic rocks in western New Brunswick. His government reports provided detailed descriptions of the stratigraphy, structure, and mineral potential of the region and led directly to the discovery of the Sewell Brook sulphide deposit (Wilson 1992). Reg's reports also highlighted his ability to express his findings in a clear and timely manner. He quickly became proficient in the fields of physical volcanology, lithogeochemistry, and geotectonics and published his first peer-reviewed scientific paper as a co-author with Dostal et al. (1989) on the geochemistry of the previously poorly documented Siluro-Devonian volcanic rocks of western New Brunswick.

Reg was New Brunswick's lead in the mapping of the northwestern part of New Brunswick under the NATMAP Bridges Project (2000 - 2004) and continued his research on these rocks for another 8 years under the New Brunswick Geological Survey's regular mapping program. Papers published as a result of these programs include Wilson (2003), Wilson et al. (2005, 2008), and Wilson and Kamo (2008, 2012), which document the geochemistry, geochronology, tectonic setting, and orogenic significance of Middle Ordovician, Silurian, and Early Devonian volcanic rocks in the region; and Wilson et al. (2004), in which he and co-workers in the Geological Survey of Canada document the tectonostratigraphic relationships of the

Late Ordovician to Middle Devonian rocks in northwestern New Brunswick to those of the Gaspé Peninsula in Québec. Reg has recently compiled information that he has collected under the NATMAP Bridges Project into a comprehensive Memoir entitled 'The Middle Paleozoic rocks of northern and western New Brunswick' to be published by the New Brunswick Department of Energy and Resource Development in 2017.

During the 1990s, Reg's work was focused on the mapping of Ordovician volcanic rocks in the western part of the Bathurst Mining Camp under joint federal-provincial MDA and EXTECH II projects. His stratigraphic, geochemical, and geochronological contributions to the understanding of these complexly deformed volcanic rocks are published in papers by Lentz and Wilson (1997), Wilson et al. (1999), and Wilson and Kamo (2007); and as a co-author with van Staal et al. (2003) in the comprehensive Economic Geology Monograph 11 on Massive Sulfide Deposits of the Bathurst Mining Camp. Reg's most recent papers (Wilson et al. 2015; van Staal et al. 2015) demonstrate the orogen-wide influence that his research has had on understanding the evolution of Early Paleozoic arc-trench systems in the Northern Appalachians.

Professional societies in New Brunswick, in Atlantic Canada, and in Canada as a whole have recognized Reg's tireless efforts over many years to enhance the well-being of the geoscience community. He served on council of the Atlantic Geoscience Society for several years and was its President from 2003 to 2004; he received the AGS Distinguished Service Award in 2008. Reg served Editor of Geoscience Canada from 2008-2011 and received the Geological Association of Canada Distinguished Service Award in 2010. In 2015, Reg received the Dr. W.J. Wright Award for distinguished contributions to the mineral industry of New Brunswick from the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy, and Petroleum (New Brunswick Branch).

Reg Wilson's many scientific papers have had a strong influence on the development of an actualistic plate tectonic model of Northern Appalachian Orogen. For these efforts, he is a truly deserving candidate to be awarded the Gesner Medal.

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