



The Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering
A constituent society of the Engineering Institute of Canada

La Société Canadienne de génie mécanique
Une société constituante de l'Institut canadien des ingénieurs

NEWS COMMUNIQUÉ

The Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering (CSME), founded in 1970, is pleased to announce the winning recipients of its 2026 regular awards. These awards may be bestowed annually to members of the society for their outstanding contributions to specific areas of mechanical engineering in Canada.

The following exceptional professionals, along with previously announced winners of CSME's technical medals, will be presented with their awards on 26 May at the 2026 CSME International Congress to be hosted on 24-27 May by UBC in Vancouver.

Please consider attending the 2026 CSME International Congress to congratulate these exceptional winners: <https://www.csmecongress.org/>.

CSME G.H. Duggan Medal

For the best paper in the Transactions of the Canadian Society for Mechanical Engineering dealing with the use of advanced materials for structural or mechanical purposes.



Michael Benoit, Ph.D., MCSME
University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON

Dr. Michael Benoit is an Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Waterloo. He is being awarded the CSME G.H. Duggan medal for his recent co-authored publication, entitled "Characterization of a manual gas tungsten arc weld overlay using Inconel 686". This study has advanced our understanding of the relationships between welding process conditions, microstructure, and properties of nickel superalloy Inconel 686 in weld overlay applications for extreme service conditions. Beyond his research contributions, he is also an active member in the manufacturing and materials communities nationally and internationally, undertaking significant service roles such as Chair of the 2025 Canadian Materials Science Conference and Assistant Editor of the Journal of Materials Processing Technology.

I.W. Smith Award

For “outstanding achievement in creative mechanical engineering within 10 years of PhD degree”



Yu Zou, Ph.D., MCSME
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Dr. Yu Zou, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Materials and Manufacturing for Extreme Environments at the University of Toronto, is recognized in the subdiscipline of Materials and Manufacturing Engineering. He is an international leader in designing advanced structural alloys and additive manufacturing. By linking composition, processing, and mechanical response, his work has accelerated the development of materials tailored for additive manufacturing and demanding service conditions. These advances enable stronger, more reliable components and faster translation from lab concepts to manufacturing solutions. The resulting impacts span aerospace and automotive lightweighting, improved durability for nuclear energy systems, and new options for biomedical materials—benefiting Canadian innovation while strengthening international competitiveness.

2026 CSME Fellows

For “excellence in mechanical engineering and significant contributions to the progress of the profession”



Mohsen Akbari, Ph.D., FCSME (2026)
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

Dr. Mohsen Akbari is an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Victoria and his exceptional contributions to advanced materials, particularly the development of bioactive fibers for tissue printing and organ weaving, have led to numerous groundbreaking technologies with significant implications for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Dr. Akbari's commitment to knowledge translation is evident through his establishment of three companies, organization of events and symposiums, service on the boards of directors of CSME and other Canadian societies, numerous awards and recognitions, and publication of research findings in high-impact journals.

2026 CSME Fellows (cont'd)



Sunny (Ri) Li, Ph.D., FCSME (2026)

University of British Columbia, Kelowna Campus, BC

Dr. Sunny Li is a professor of mechanical engineering in the School of Engineering at The University of British Columbia. He received his MAsc and PhD degrees from The University of Toronto in 2004 and 2008, respectively. Before joining UBC in 2011, he was a research scientist at GE Global Research, NY. At UBC, his Thermal Management & Multiphase Flows Lab advances the knowledge of heat transfer and multiphase flows and develops new methods of enhancing thermal management and predicting heat transfer performance for varied engineering applications. His research contributions are related to effective and energy-saving cooling for microchips and datacenters, heat and moisture transfer through textiles for human thermal comfort, thermal management for gas fuels, and waste heat recovery



Kevin Pope, Ph.D., FCSME (2026)

Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's, NL

Dr. Kevin Pope at Memorial University of Newfoundland has made significant contributions to more resilient and sustainable energy systems. His contributions to sustainable energy systems, clean hydrogen production, and ocean energy have been published in over 140 journal and conference papers and 4 book chapters. Dr. Pope has developed new predictive models and operating strategies that have improved system performance and reliability, particularly for wind energy and hydrogen production. These research outcomes will significantly contribute to increasing the installed capacity of wind turbines, especially in Canada's remote and northern regions, as well as provide important advances in clean fuel development and decarbonizing energy intensive industries. Dr. Pope received the CSME I.W. Smith award for outstanding achievement in creative mechanical engineering and led the creation of the university's Master of Applied Science in Energy Systems Engineering program. Dr. Pope's impactful contributions to mechanical engineering make him a worthy Fellow of the CSME.

2026 CSME Fellows (cont'd)



Dan Romanyk, Ph.D., FCSME (2026)
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

Dr. Dan Romanyk is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, with additional appointments in Biomedical Engineering and the School of Dentistry, at the University of Alberta. He also completed his BSc, PhD, and Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Alberta. Dr. Romanyk's primary areas of research surround the characterization of natural and synthetic biomaterials in the craniofacial environment and studying the biomechanics of orthodontic treatment, publishing over 65 journal articles to date. In 2022, Dr. Romanyk served as the Planning and Events Chair for the CSME International Congress, where he was also named as the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. He also received the CSME IW Smith Award in 2024 for early career achievements. Through both impactful research and service activities, Dr. Romanyk has made a tremendous contribution to CSME and the field of mechanical engineering.



Norman Wereley, Ph.D., FCSME (2026)
University of Maryland, Maryland, MD

Dr. Wereley, the Minta Martin Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Maryland College Park, is an internationally recognized scholar in (1) smart, composite and cellular materials for occupant protection systems, (2) magnetorheological fluids and devices, and (3) pneumatic artificial muscles for morphing aircraft and robotic applications. He has been recognized as a key architect behind the first-ever organ transplant delivery flight via VTOL drone. He has co-authored over 600 articles, 8 edited books, 19 book chapters, and is the co-inventor of over 20 patents. He is the recipient of the ASME Adaptive Structure and Material Systems Award and SPIE Lifetime Achievement Award in Smart Structures and Materials. Dr. Wereley earned his B.Eng.'82 in Mechanical Engineering from McGill University, and his M.S.'87 and Ph.D.'90 in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a Fellow of AIAA, ASME, IOP, RAeS, SPIE, and VFS, acknowledging his extensive technical and service contributions.