

PATRICK SELVADURAI (1942-2023)
By Mohamed Meguid and Paul Selvadurai



It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of Professor A.P.S. (Patrick) Selvadurai on July 20, 2023, at the age of 80. Born on September 23, 1942, Patrick was a graduate of Brighton University (UK). He pursued advanced studies at the Imperial College of Science and Technology (UK), Stanford University (USA) and earned his PhD from the University of Nottingham (UK) (1971). In 1986, Nottingham honored him with its first-ever DSc in theoretical mechanics for his work in geomechanics and elastomechanics.

Patrick first taught at the University of Aston (UK) from 1971-1975. In 1975, he joined Carleton University's Department of Civil Engineering, becoming a full professor in 1981 and served as the department chair from 1982-1991. In 1993, he became Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics at McGill University, holding the position until 1997.

He was a dedicated teacher, having taught geotechnical courses in the undergraduate and graduate programs, and other courses in McGill's engineering programs. Over the course of his career, he supervised more than one hundred research graduate students, many of whom have established very successful careers in academia and industry.

Patrick was a prolific and impactful scholar and leaves an unparalleled legacy in several disciplines including foundation engineering and geomechanics. His work has profoundly influenced engineering activities related to nuclear waste management, soil-structure interaction and northern engineering associated with offshore structures, buried pipelines and environmental geomechanics.

Over his extensive career in academia, Patrick published more than 330 papers in peer-reviewed journals, authored or co-authored six books and edited 11 texts and eight special issues of international journals. He served on the editorial boards of nine leading international journals.

His contributions to the engineering profession were recognized by his being named a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada, the American Academy of Mechanics, the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications and the

Canadian Academy of Engineering. In 2007, he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

His stature in the national and international research communities was recognized through numerous awards and prizes. Examples include the Humboldt Senior Scientist Award (Germany), the Killam Research Fellowship (Canada), the inaugural John Booker Medal of the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics, the Max Planck Research Prize in the Engineering Sciences (Germany) and the Killam Prize for Engineering, one of Canada's most distinguished research awards. At McGill, he was recognized with the titles of William Scott Professor, James McGill Professor and most recently Distinguished James McGill Professor.

He was a visiting professor at numerous universities including: the University of Nottingham (UK), Université Joseph Fourier (France), University of Canterbury (New Zealand) and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland).

Beyond his academic achievements, Patrick was, foremost, a devoted family man who delighted in the antics of his four children, and imparted to them a love of art, opera, westerns and unusual geological formations, which were the subject of various memorable family outings over the years. In the interest of staying fit, he led an almost fanatically active lifestyle, but nevertheless was known for a deep appreciation for time spent over good wine and good food and with friends, family and colleagues. In recent years, he took great pleasure in spending time with his cherished grand children who equally cherished him. While such dedication to family and friends is not recognized by international prizes, those around him prized him more than can possibly be said.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Sally, his wife of more than 50 years, his four children, Emily, Paul, Mark and Lizzie, his grandchildren and broader family, and to friends, colleagues and students across the world and all whose lives he touched in so many ways.