Presentation of IPGSA Distinguished Service Award to Prof. Kim H. Esbensen

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The Constitution of the International Pierre Gy Sampling Association (IPGSA) specifies that the IPGSA Council may present a "Distinguished Service Award" to persons who over a sustained period have made distinguished and noteworthy contributions to the organisational activities of the Association and/or its conferences. Recipients of this award may be nominated by any member of the IPGSA Council or International Advisory Committee prior to each World Conference on Sampling and Blending (WCSB).

For the first time since its establishment in 2017, the Council received a compelling nomination for this award on the occasion of the 11th World Conference on Sampling and Blending (WCSB11) held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in May 2024 - and after a very brief discussion the Council agreed that the inaugural Distinguished Service Award should be presented to none other than Dr. Kim H. Esbensen.

As the initiator of the WCSB conference series, the Council could not think of a more worthy recipient of the inaugural award. Kim was the creator of the WCSB concept and organised the very first conference (WCSB1) in Esbjerg, Denmark in 2003, the key aims being to bring together practitioners, experts and academics from all over the world involved in sampling, share their expertise, and promote the Theory of Sampling (TOS) developed by Dr Pierre Gy who was the guest of honour at WCSB1. This was a truly visionary development by Kim and initiated the entire WCSB conference series. Since then, WCSB conferences have been held around the world in Australia, Brazil, South Africa, Chile, Peru, France, China and Norway (next up is Cornwall, UK). Kim played a key role in all these conferences, including the establishment of the International Pierre Gy Sampling Association a.o. to assess bids and coordinate the allocation of WCSB conferences. He has also played a pivotal role in the publication of WCSB Proceedings, and since 2013 was editor of TOS forum and the Spectroscopy Europe/World "Sampling Column" that in 2024 evolved into the aggregated journal "Sampling Science and Technology" (SST).

Figure 1: Dr. Kim H. Esbensen with IPGSA's Distinguished Service Medal.

Kim H. Esbensen was well qualified to undertake these tasks: He has been Research Professor in Geoscience Data Analysis and Sampling at GEUS, the National Geological Surveys of Denmark and Greenland (2010-2015), Chemometrics and Sampling Professor at Aalborg University, Denmark (2001-2015), and a Professor (Process Analytical Technologies) at Telemark Institute of Technology, Norway (1990-2000 and 2010-2015). In 2015 he moved on from his 35-year academic career to undertake a new role as a consultant and independent researcher. But this did not terminate his love for teaching, as he regularly takes on international roles as a visiting, guest and affiliate professor. As a geologist/geochemist/metallurgist/data analyst by training, he first worked for more than 20 years at the forefront of chemometrics.

However, since 2000 he has devoted most of his R&D efforts to representative sampling of heterogeneous materials, processes and systems, in particular to the Theory of Sampling (TOS), PAT (Process Analytical Technology) and chemometrics. He is a member of several scientific societies, has published over 250 peer-reviewed papers, and is the author of a widely used textbook in Multivariate Data Analysis, the 6th edition of which was published in 2018. For 15+ years, he has been the driver behind the world's first horisontal (matrix-independent) sampling standard DS3077 (2014), the revised 3rd edition launched 2024, which is currently being progressed towards becoming an ISO Standard.

Congratulations Kim on receiving the inaugural IPGSA Distinguished Service Award.

This award complements the Pierre Gy Sampling Gold Medal that he received from the International Pierre Gy Sampling Association in 2013 at WCSB6, which is awarded to individuals who have made *significant contributions to teaching and dissemination of the theory and practice of sampling*.