



## **2020 King Edward VII Cup**

### **Dr Stephen Beerman**

Dr Stephen Beerman has provided outstanding national and international leadership in the drowning prevention field for over four decades. Since 1986, he has served the Canadian and Commonwealth Royal Life Saving Societies and the International Life Saving Federation (ILS) in many roles and offices including Chair of their respective Medical Committees and President of the Lifesaving Society Canada and ILS.

Dr Beerman has been and remains a prime mover in the Canadian and international field of drowning prevention. His leadership is visionary, and he has raised the profile of drowning as a serious public health issue.

As Chair of its Medical Committee and later as its President, Dr Beerman successfully broadened the water rescue and lifesaving sport focus of the International Life Saving Federation into drowning research and drowning prevention education.

Dr Beerman's proactive liaison with the World Health Organization stimulated WHO's focus on drowning as a major public health issue and led to the first comprehensive WHO report on drowning.

Acting on one of the WHO recommendations for national action, Dr Beerman played a key role in the formation of the multi-sectoral Canadian Drowning Prevention Coalition and is largely responsible for the development of its first Canadian Drowning Prevention Plan. He continues to provide guidance as co-chair of the coalition.

Dr Beerman continues to consult with WHO on drowning research, most recently on achieving international consensus on a definition of "non-fatal drowning".

Dr Beerman continues to advance the field of drowning prevention through research, by motivating and empowering agents for change and by focusing on research that will have the greatest practical impacts on the ground --- especially in low-and-middle income nations where the need is the greatest. He is an articulate advocate for the drowning prevention cause and is an exceptional and persuasive ambassador to governments, NGO's and funding bodies.

**For his dedication to the Royal Life Saving Society and the wider drowning prevention community, it is with great pleasure that Dr Beerman is awarded the King Edward VII Cup for 2020.**