

### **2003 W. B. Lewis Medal – Dr. Ronald E. Mitchel**

Ron Mitchel is recognized worldwide as an outstanding expert on health effects of low doses of ionizing radiation. Dr. Mitchel was educated at the University of British Columbia where he received bachelor, master's and doctoral degrees in chemistry and biochemistry. His research over a 33-year career in radiation biology at AECL has had a major impact on the understanding of low-dose effects. Dr. Mitchel has produced more than 100 scientific publications demonstrating that low doses induce protective responses in cells and whole organisms to resist cancer-causing agents, reduce cancer frequency, increase lifespan, induce DNA repair and cause pre-cancerous cells to disappear – all important health benefits.

His experimental work bears directly on the need to address public concerns and perceptions about health risks and benefits of radiation. A major achievement was his successful leadership in the establishment of the unique Biological Research Facility, which has attracted worldwide attention, and has brought in international funding to support the research being carried out. Dr. Mitchel has a remarkable ability to effectively communicate the biological effects of radiation. As a result, he has received numerous invitations to speak internationally. His research has provided convincing evidence that challenges the underlying assumptions of radiation-protection practices. Ron Mitchel's extensive body of work on radiation effects earns him this distinguished award.