

ISACHD Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Jane Somerville, the 'mother' of GUCH

The *ISACHD Lifetime Achievement Award* recognizes sustained excellence in leadership and innovation through long-term dedication and contributions to, and achievements in, the care of adults with congenital heart disease: these attributes perfectly describe Dr. Somerville's great contributions to the field of ACHD with global impact. She has dedicated more than half of a century of her life to ACHD or GUCH, she has championed the ACHD or GUCH subspecialty amongst many other key activities which have changed the lives of many patients and the lives of the ACHD physicians. She has demonstrated vision, exceptional leadership, mentorship, dedication and advocacy with global impact. She was one of the founding organizers for World Congress in Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery in the 1980s, of the ESC WG on Grown-Up Congenital Heart Disease in the early 1990s amongst others. We are particularly proud to present Dr. Jane Somerville this Award as she is one of the founding organizers of ISACHD in 1994.

Dr. Jane Somerville is one of the unique individuals who are masters in disruptive thinking to challenge the status quo, to stimulate discussion outside the box, to foster new ideas and concepts and to transform a generally accepted consensus or opinion. Her unconventional and provocative thinking helped to establish ACHD as a recognized subspecialty in cardiology.

The Award was presented to Dr. Somerville at the EuroGUCH Meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland on May 5, 2017. It was a historical moment when Dr. Carole Warnes honored Dr. Somerville's great achievement and contribution in a video message <http://isachd.org/sites/default/files/Warnes-3635269v2.mp4>.

Unfortunately, Dr. Jane Somerville could not to be present but Dr. John Deanfield accepted the plaque on behalf of Dr. Somerville and handed it over to her in London.

Dr. Erwin Oechslin
President ISACHD