

Simon Newcomb Award

Ivan Semeniuk

A member of the Toronto Centre since 1988, Ivan Semeniuk received his BSc in physics and astronomy from the University of Toronto. He joined the staff of the Ontario Science Centre in 1986 where he developed exhibits and programs and oversaw the centre's planetarium. When the McLaughlin Planetarium was closed in 1995, he facilitated the Toronto Centre's move to the OSC, where member meetings were held regularly for the next 20 years. He became a Life Member of the Society and served on Toronto Centre Council as 2nd Vice-President from 1996 to 1997.

Ivan earned his Master's degree in Science Journalism at Boston University in 1999 and became a producer and columnist for Discovery Channel, Canada. In 2005, he moved to the USA as US Bureau Chief for New Scientist magazine and in 2007 was named a Knight Fellow in Science Journalism at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was Journalist-in-Residence at the Dunlap Institute of the University of Toronto from 2008 to 2010. After working as Chief of Correspondents at the US offices of Nature from 2010 to 2012, he moved back to Canada to become the science reporter for the Globe and Mail in 2013. He has also pursued a career as a freelance science writer, journalist and broadcaster, producing many print, radio and TV works, including the 30-episode TV series Cosmic Vistas.

He has received a Gemini nomination and two other film awards. In 2016 he was named the recipient of the prestigious Sandford Fleming Medal by the Royal Canadian Institute.

[A sampling of Ivan Semeniuk's print articles on astronomy is attached.] The Toronto Centre strongly believes that Ivan Semeniuk's accomplishments as a science journalist qualifies him as a worthy recipient of the Simon Newcomb Award.

Dr. Ralph Chou, Toronto Centre President

Tony Horvatin, Toronto Centre 1st Past President