

2007 SME-Pittsburgh Section Distinguished Member Award

Stephen C. Tadolini, Ph. D.

Dr. Stephen C. Tadolini is the Chief of the Rock Safety Engineering Branch at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Pittsburgh Research Laboratory in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Tadolini is responsible for the NIOSH research program and management of a multi-disciplinary team that is conducting safety and health research in the areas of ground control and rock mechanics.

Dr. Tadolini received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Colorado, a Masters degree in Civil and Geotechnical Engineering, Rock Mechanics from the University of Colorado and a Doctoral degree in Mining Engineering from West Virginia University. Dr. Tadolini has over 28 years of experience in mining and ground control related engineering, rock mechanics, research and management. He has utilized a variety of laboratory tests, instrumentation and interpretive devices to successfully assess and design underground mines and ground control support systems. He has functioned as a research mining engineer, technical consultant, engineering manager, and as a business owner.

Dr. Tadolini began his professional career in 1979 as a Geotechnical project engineer for Chen & Associates, Consulting Geotechnical Engineers, in Denver, CO. He performed on-site and laboratory analysis of soil and measured rock mechanics behaviors. In 1980, Dr. Tadolini joined the U.S. Bureau of Mines, Denver Research Center, Denver, CO as a Mining Engineer. He conducted mining research in the areas of rock mechanics, mine design, and ground control, including drilling and instrumentation installation and data interpretation. In 1986, he advanced to the level of Principal Investigator at the U.S. Bureau of Mines in the area of ground control, rock mechanics, support system design and selection, and new technology development. In 1995, Dr. Tadolini assumed the position of Vice President of Technical Services at the Rocky Mountain Bolt Co., Denver, CO. He performed broad engineering, consulting, and management responsibilities, in the area of ground control and underground



mine design. In 1996, Dr. Tadolini accepted the position of Manager of Technical Services, Excel Mining Systems (Division of ANI) with manufacturing and engineering design and support in Australia, United States, Poland, Chili, and United Kingdom. In 1999, Dr.

Tadolini became Vice President of Engineering and Research, at Excel Mining Systems, Inc., in Bowerston, OH where he was responsible for new product development in the areas of underground metal/non-metal and coal ground control products. He also conducted mine stability analyses and made cost-effective ground control recommendations to improve safety and enhance stability.

Dr. Tadolini joined NIOSH in 2002 and served as Chief of the Geotechnical Engineering Section at the Pittsburgh Research Laboratory, Pittsburgh, PA. His responsibilities included guidance and oversight of the geotechnical engineering program, management of research projects, and technology transfer activities to disseminate research findings. He also prepared concept and project proposals, organized cooperative research projects with U.S. and international research organizations, companies, and Federal and State Agencies. In 2004, he was promoted to Acting Branch Chief of the Rock Safety Engineering Branch at the Pittsburgh Research Laboratory and in 2006 he assumed his current position.

Dr. Tadolini is a 27-year member of the SME, a member of Colorado Mining Association and a member of American Rock Mechanics Association. He has also served on numerous committees including 10 years on the Organizing Committee of International Ground Control Conference and serves as a co-chairman, the Publication Committee of SME, the ASTM Committee on Standard Specifications for Roof and Rock Bolt Accessories (ASTM-432) and on the American Mining Congress, Special Committee on Cable Supports. Dr. Tadolini is also serving as the chairman of the selection committee for the prestigious SME Syd S. Peng Ground Control in Mining Award. Over the course of his career, Dr. Tadolini has authored numerous conference and journal publications and has become a recognized expert in the areas of mine design, roof support, and ground control.