



Fellow EIC

EIC Citation: Leon Katz, O.C., O. Ont., P. Eng. (2014-03-15)

A Biomedical engineer, Leon Katz devoted his career to improving patient care and safety.

One of the first to specialize in clinical medicine, Katz invented, innovated, and hand-built a wide range of hospital instruments: a fetal heart monitor; infant incubator; scanner-printer to detect radioactive iodine uptake in thyroid disease; high-speed contrast injector for angiography. Then, he frequently operated these new devices during clinical procedures!

Operating his own original heart-lung bypass machine, Katz was the Perfusionist for Canada's first successful open-heart surgery, and for thousands of subsequent surgeries.

At Health Canada, he established new legislation for medical devices.

One outstanding contribution, affecting millions worldwide, was his discovery and correction of the backflow hazard from evacuated blood collection tubes used to gather blood samples.

Leon Katz is an Officer of the Order of Canada. He has been honoured with the Order of Ontario, the Living Legend Award from the World Society of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons, and as "Member Emeritus" of the Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Society, of which he was a founder and is now, the first EIC Fellow.