



# Newsletter

of the

# International Association of GeoChemistry

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## Parting Thoughts from the President



Well here is my last contribution as president of IAGC. After a very brief two years, I am passing the baton into the capable hands of Philippe Negrel who will take over the role of IAGC president for the next two years with Neus Otero as the new Vice President. I would like to thank everyone on the committee who has helped me to keep some semblance of organisation over the last couple of years, especially Chris Gardner who has made sure that myself and the rest of the committee have met deadlines and carried out the tasks that we said that we would do.

I have had the pleasure of attending two of the working group meetings whilst being president and meeting many of the IAGC members. I would have ideally attended more of the meetings but distances from Australia and an academic calendar that is out of sync with those in the northern hemisphere makes that somewhat of a challenge. I appreciate the considerable work that the IAGC working groups do to organise these popular and productive meetings on a regular

basis. The working group meetings allow for considerable networking opportunities and provide a relaxed atmosphere in which to discuss science and I would certainly recommend them.

Having been involved in geochemistry for over 30 years, I am always heartened by the degree to which it continues to progress as a discipline. When I started, radiogenic and stable isotope techniques were perhaps at the cutting edge of research. Over the last few decades, we have seen great advances in understanding the interaction between the biosphere and the lithosphere or hydrosphere, and fields such as biogeochemistry and geomicrobiology are becoming more prominent. We have also seen great advances in technology such as portable stable isotope analysers that allow real time geochemical data to be collected in dynamic environments, the ability to directly determine the geochemistry of other planets, and the use of synchrotron techniques to explore the details of materials and reactions. In the future, I look forward to the new understanding of processes that comes from the new opportunities arising from cross-disciplinary collaboration and the further development of technology that will open up new research directions.

As I always do, I'll finish with an encouragement to be involved in IAGC. If you can help with a working group or can contribute to the committee when vacancies arise then please do so; it isn't a large time commitment but your contribution is an immeasurable benefit to the society. If you can think how the society can do things better or that there are things that we should be doing, then please let us know. So whether you are looking forward to summer or bracing for winter, I hope that your geochemical endeavours over the next few months are fruitful and I look forward to seeing some of you at the IAGC meetings in the future.

-Ian Cartwright

## Renew Your Membership for 2017!

Don't forget to renew your IAGC membership for 2017 by January so you don't miss any issues of *Elements* magazine! Believe it or not, our annual membership fee is STILL only \$25 and includes a hard copy subscription to *Elements* as well as online access. Membership also rewards you with lower cost registration rates at IAGC-sponsored working group conferences. Online access to our journal, *Applied Geochemistry*, is also available.

[Renew with a credit card](#)

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## Association News

### 2017 IAGC Awards Nominations Extended

The IAGC will continue accepting award nominations for 2017 **through January 15**.

**The Kharaka Award** - bestowed to two deserving scientists (which may include senior graduate students) from developing countries. The award consists of a framed certificate plus an IAGC membership and *Applied Geochemistry* subscription for a term of three years.

[http://www.iagc-society.org/kharaka\\_award.html](http://www.iagc-society.org/kharaka_award.html)

### **The Harmon Distinguished Service**

**Award** - bestowed on a deserving candidate to recognize outstanding service by an IAGC member to the Association or to the geochemical community that greatly exceeds the normal expectations of voluntary service.

[http://www.iagc-society.org/distinguished\\_service.html](http://www.iagc-society.org/distinguished_service.html)

**Ebelmen Award** – bestowed to a geochemist of particular merit and outstanding promise less than 35 years old at the time of nomination.

<http://www.iagc-society.org/ebelman.html>

**IAGC Fellow** - bestowed to a scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of geochemistry.

[http://www.iagc-society.org/iagc\\_fellows.html](http://www.iagc-society.org/iagc_fellows.html)

**Certificate of Recognition** - awarded to IAGC Members for outstanding scientific accomplishment in a particular area of geochemistry, for excellence in teaching or public service, or for meritorious service to the Association or the international geochemistry community.

[http://www.iagc-society.org/certificate\\_recognition.html](http://www.iagc-society.org/certificate_recognition.html)

### **New Vice-President Neus Otero**

In 2017, Ian Cartwright will move into the Past-President position, and Rich Wanty will move out of his role as Past-President. A big THANK YOU to Rich for his service to the IAGC for the past 4 years!

Of course, this means that we have a new Vice-President, and we're happy to announce that Neus Otero will fill that role beginning in 2017. Neus is professor in the Earth Sciences Faculty of the University of Barcelona. She obtained her degree in Geology (1998) and her PhD in Geological Sciences (2004), both at the University of Barcelona. As a post-doc she worked at the "Earth Sciences Institute – Jaume Almera" and in the "Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research", both from the

Spanish Council of Scientific Research (CSIC). During this period she also spent a postdoctoral fellowship at the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department of the University of Waterloo (Canada).

Her research is focused on the use of isotopic tools to identify the source and fate of contaminants in the environment. Current research lines deal with agricultural and industrial pollution,



Neus Otero

applying a multi-isotopic approach to trace the sources of pollution in surface and groundwater, and to monitor natural attenuation. She also works in the development and implementation of remediation technologies, especially in-situ treatments. She is a senior project manager and is actively involved in the transfer of scientific achievements to the public administration and/or private companies. She has published over 30 scientific papers in indexed journals, and presented more than 100 contributions in international and national conferences. She has also contributed to the organizing and/or the scientific committee in several conferences, co-hosting the AIG-9 conference in Tarragona in 2012. She co-edited a special edition of Applied Geochemistry from the AIG-9 conference.

She teaches mineralogy and thermodynamics. She is the coordinator of a Master in Mineral Resources and Geological Hazards, and is part of the Academic committee and the Quality committee of the Earth Sciences Faculty. She is supervisor of PhD, master and degree students. She has also participated in the organization and

teaching of post-graduate national and international courses, focused on the use of stable isotopes as tracers of pollution.

## Charitable Giving

Members can make a charitable gift to IAGC, either for general fund support or for special initiatives during online membership renewal. You may donate at any time online, either during your membership renewal or separately.

US members who need an additional tax deduction for 2016 should make their contribution prior to 31 December.

Please donate right now through the IAGC web site ([www.iagc-society.org/donate.html](http://www.iagc-society.org/donate.html))

*IAGC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations to the Society are tax-deductible in the U.S. (EIN: 48-0943367).*

### **We would like to thank the following individuals for their generous contributions to the IAGC in 2016:**

Gwendolyn Macpherson  
David Janecky  
Bret Leslie  
Russell Harmon  
Janet Herman  
Robert Zielinski  
Marilena Stimpfl  
Dirk Kirste  
William Ullman  
Patrice de Caritat  
Iñaki Vadillo-Perez  
Miriam Kastner  
Radomir Petrovich  
Cynthia Venn  
Bernhard Mayer  
Rona McGill  
Richard Wanty  
Suzanne Anderson

Teodora Szocs  
Alan Shiller  
Nakaya Harue  
Kristin Salzsauler  
Marie Pavish  
David Naftz

Consider joining your colleagues on this list in 2017!

## **News from Michael Kersten, *Applied Geochemistry* Executive Editor**

In this autumn edition of the IAGC newsletter, I would like to share with you some journal updates.

The 2015 Impact Factor release (© Thomson Reuters' Journal Citation Reports, published June 2016) reports on a significant rise from 2.27 in previous year to now 2.48 as



calculated based on the performance (citations) of papers published in previous two years. Our journal is thus ranked in the top 50% of journals in the category Geochemistry & Geophysics, by Impact Factor, 5 year Impact Factor and Article Influence Score, and in the top quartile based on Eigenfactor. I accept this strong position as my main task to maintain and develop further in the future. However, in the middle of this year, this effort became a bit hampered by an unfortunate change in the electronic submission system. For article processing, the new EVISE system was introduced on July 7. This should have brought in a new and more user-friendly electronic submission system as announced originally by Elsevier. In fact, the exact opposite was the case as we realized immediately.

Clearly, when working with a PC, we are used to system upgrades like Windows and Office, which commonly bring about many new (useful) gimmicks. We are also used to system upgrades that come along with (i) no changes in major system characteristics so that user may intuitively and rapidly get adapted, and (ii) a stability greater than the old one. Computer freezing hasn't been an issue with such system upgrades for a long time. Unfortunately, this was not the case with EVISE. First, the new system is entirely different than the old one, allowing no intuitive transfer of knowledge without extensive tutorials. Secondly, right after starting the new EVISE system, my PC often freezes (!) just like happened two decades ago with programs like MS Word. It took months and many system updates until I could work with at least 3-5 manuscripts before to having restart EVISE, but at least no longer the whole PC. I still get many comments by frustrated authors, reviewers and editors (by the way, the also applies to other journals, so we are not alone with that problem). The only advice I can give all of them is to watch for half an hour a YouTube video as to how the system ought to work ideally ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvbpiczO\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvbpiczO_4)), and if problems are still not resolved, to write an email directly to our journal manager who is currently (changes about each half year) Vishwaraj Natarajan (v.natarajan.2@elsevier.com). He will organize a phone call with a system IT manager to solve such simple but annoying system flaws like inoperable login (note, however, that it's not you but the system that is stupid).

To end this letter with a more gratifying message, we have had a special issue published this year on quite a hot topic – “Environmental Impacts of Mining and Smelting” (Volume 64, edited by Vojtěch Ettler and Cécile Quantin). Another two are in the pipe to be published early next year about “Statistical Analysis of Geochemical Compositions: Problems, Perspectives and Solutions” (an outcome of a related session at the 17th annual conference of the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences, edited

by Peter Filzmoser, Karel Hron and Raimon Tolosana-Delgado), and about “Urban Geochemistry” edited by Christopher Gardner, Dave Long and W. Berry Lyons. Later in 2017 we will have issues about “Radionuclides in the Environment” (with articles related to the Fukushima disaster, an outcome of a session presented at Goldschmidt 2016, edited by Daniel Kaplan, Kazuya Tanaka and Toshihiko Ohnuki), “Trace Metals in Soils” (outcome of a related session at the 18th International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment, edited by Jörg Rinklebe, Yong Sik Ok, Daniel S. Alessi and Filip M. G. Tack), and last but not least, about “Environmental Geochemistry” as an outcome of the 10th International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry edited by Clemens Reimann, Chaocheng Zhang, Ron Fuge and Mark Cave. Clearly, compiling of these issues is quite a tremendous piece of work for all our guest editors, and I am full of gratitude to see our journal well-enriched with all those attractive volumes.

All the best,  
Michael Kersten  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Applied Geochemistry*

## Obituary

### Professor Jane Plant CBE 1945 - 2016.

It is with great sadness that we report that Jane passed away on Friday 4th March 2016. She will be remembered vividly by many of her former colleagues at the British Geological Survey (BGS) as well as by former research collaborators and students across the world. A geochemist of high international standing and a leader in her field, Jane made a lasting impression on those who had the privilege of working with her – her passion, drive, creativity and pursuit of meaningful impact in her research were exceptional. Reflecting on

Jane's work as a geochemist, it is easy to see that she left a substantial legacy – a high resolution baseline geochemical dataset with many applications of economic, environmental and social benefit for the United Kingdom (UK) and methods that have been adopted and adapted around the globe as standard for undertaking geochemical surveys. Starting in 1995, Jane co-led the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP) /International Association of Geochemistry (IAGC) Global Geochemical Baselines Programme for 10 years, developing methods for and the expansion of continental-scale geochemical mapping. Further, Jane developed strong and prolific research outputs in metallogenesis, crustal evolution and environment and health. In the latter she was the initiator of what continues to be a significant area of research for the BGS. She was the author of over 200 publications and her scientific reputation was recognised throughout her career by numerous prestigious awards, honorary professorships and memberships of learned society, governmental and parliamentary committees.

She made exceptional career progress becoming one of the UK's most senior female scientists in an era when leading female scientists were rare and faced many barriers to progression. Jane's legacy extended beyond her scientific outputs – her leadership, with a firm commitment to creating and supporting opportunities for the development and progression of early-career scientists also made a lasting impact. As a result of her experiences she became a role model and champion to many younger scientists.

Jane retired from BGS in 2005 when she held the role of Chief Scientist but her career continued to gather momentum in other directions, commencing in 2003, with publication of 'Your Life in Your Hands', the first of a series of books she wrote on the relationship between diet and health, following her own experiences with cancer. After leaving BGS, Jane held the position

of Emeritus Professor of Geochemistry at Imperial College, London until her death.

### **Biography**

Jane attended Ashby de la Zouch Grammar School for Girls and joined BGS in 1967, aged 23, with a first-class degree in Geology from the University of Liverpool and was assigned to the Atomic Energy Section in London. Her career progressed rapidly; initially developing methods in the north of Scotland for a regional geochemical survey to identify resources of economically important metals for which she was awarded, in 1977, a PhD from the University of Leicester for her work "Regional geochemical mapping in Great Britain with particular reference to sources of error".

By 1983 Jane had achieved Senior Principle Scientific Officer Individual Merit Promotion in recognition of her scientific achievement. Following a sabbatical year in 1988-89, spent in Northern Canada developing her skills and experience working as Vice-President of a junior exploration company, she became the first female Assistant Director of BGS, heading the Minerals, Environment and Geochemical Surveys Division. Subsequently, Jane held a succession of senior leadership positions in BGS culminating in 2002 with her appointment as BGS Chief Scientist. Jane was a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (1999-2005) and was elected President of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (2001-02) and a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (2012). In 1997 she was awarded Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in recognition of her contribution to science and industry.

This is a version of the obituary published by the British Geological Survey on their website (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/item.cfm?id=7318>).

## 2017 Meetings

### 12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG-12)



17-22 September 2017

Copper Mountain Resort in Colorado, USA

*Website coming in 2017*

The 12<sup>th</sup> IAGC-sponsored Applied Isotope Geochemistry Symposium (AIG-12) will take place 17-22 September 2017 at the Copper Mountain Resort in Colorado, USA. As in previous meetings, we will have a wide range of topical sessions, including light stable isotopes, clumped isotopy, and metal, radiogenic, and heavy isotopes. The program consisting of oral and poster presentations will be sure to stimulate conversation and new collaborations among our international attendees. We especially encourage students to attend. Copper Mountain is a beautiful resort area in central Colorado's Rocky Mountains. We will have all necessary facilities for the meeting in one place – lodging, restaurants, and the meeting venue are all within a short walk of each other. The meeting will feature presentations on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with a mid-week field trip on Wednesday. The field trip will focus on the geology and geochemistry of Colorado's metal-mining history. For accompanying persons, there is an abundance of activities, including hiking, fishing, golfing, mountain biking and sightseeing. Copper Mountain Resort is easily reached by bus, van or automobile from Denver International Airport. In the coming months we will have more information posted on our website at [www.appliedisotopegeochemistry.org](http://www.appliedisotopegeochemistry.org). If you have ideas for special topical sessions, please

contact Rich Wanty ([rwanty@usgs.gov](mailto:rwanty@usgs.gov)) or Ian Ridley ([iridley@usgs.gov](mailto:iridley@usgs.gov)). We look forward to seeing you in September 2017!

### BIOGEMON 2017 - 9th International Symposium on Ecosystem Behavior

20-24 August, 2017

Litomyšl Chateau, Czech Republic

<http://www.biogemon.cz>

**Abstract deadline: 10 March, 2017**

The symposium will focus on biogeochemistry in an era of global change. Long-term trends in ecosystem functioning and stoichiometry of biogeochemical processes in upland and wetland soils will be emphasized, along with catchment monitoring/modelling, and translocations of nutrients, micronutrients and trace metals in forest ecosystems, grasslands and extreme environments. We look forward to seeing you in the lovingly restored 16th century town of Litomyšl.

**Highlight Topics include:** Catchment monitoring and modelling | Process-level studies in upland and wetland soils | Interactions between biogeochemical cycles of C, N, P, S, Ca and Mg | Micronutrients and trace metals in ecosystems | Biogeochemistry in an era of global change | Linking microbial communities with element pools and fluxes | Traditional and novel isotope systems in the environment | Ecosystem restoration/rehabilitation/management

#### Sessions:

1. Catchment monitoring/ manipulations/ models
2. Long-term trends in ecosystem functioning
3. Biosphere-atmosphere interactions in an era of global change
4. Belowground turnover of carbon in forest ecosystems
5. Biogeochemistry of wetlands

6. Controls on dissolved organic matter fluxes
7. Biogeochemistry of nitrogen
8. Cycling of phosphorus in forest, grassland and wetland ecosystems
9. Links between the biogeochemical cycles of C, N, S, P, Ca and Mg
10. Trace-element and metal biogeochemistry
11. Stoichiometry in process-level studies
12. Linking biodiversity and biogeochemistry
13. Weathering and chemical processes as keys to ecosystem functioning
14. Linking microbial communities with element pools and fluxes
15. The role of dead wood in forest biogeochemistry
16. Traditional and novel isotope systems in the environment
17. Archives of past changes in pollution levels/climatic parameters
18. Extreme events and ecosystem health
19. Arctic environments
20. Ecosystem restoration/ rehabilitation/ management
10. Chemistry of ocean (past present and future)
11. Environmental geochemistry (groundwater, rivers, lakes aerosols, particulates, aerosols etc.)
12. Geochemistry and culture (archeology, forensic, agriculture, paleo)
13. Geochemistry of contaminants and pollution
14. Geobiology of the Past (mass extinction, fossils, origin of life)
15. Geobiology of the Modern
16. Climate and Atmosphere of the Anthropocene
17. Paleoclimate
18. Mineral resources for society
19. Energy resources for society
20. Geo-omics meets Organic Geochemistry
21. Innovation in geochemical methods
22. Models and data in geochemistry
23. Education, Outreach and Career Opportunities

## Goldschmidt 2017

13-18 August, 2017  
Paris, France

<https://goldschmidt.info/2017/>

**Abstract deadline:** 1 April, 2017

### Program:

1. Early Solar system
2. Making of planets (session for exoplanet exploration, impacts)
3. Early Earth
4. Earth's Mantle and Core
5. Crust to Mantle - Mantle to Crust
6. Crustal differentiation and specialization
7. Minerals and Geomaterials
8. Nano to microscale processes in geochemistry
9. Weathering, erosion and climate (past, present and future)



## ISEB23 - International Society for Environmental Biogeochemistry

24-29 September 2017

Palm Cove, Tropical North Queensland,  
Australia

<http://www.iseb23.info>

[iseb23@pco.com.au](mailto:iseb23@pco.com.au)

- Biogeochemical cycling of major (C, N, P, S) and minor elements - methods, applications, fundamental and applied studies

The Symposium brings together environmental scientists with a diverse range of interests in an intimate setting which encourages close interactions and exchange of information. A major attraction of the ISEB Symposia are their broad, cross-disciplinary coverage and single theme format. Attendance is typically 150 people. 2017 Symposium theme is: “From cells to Earth scale processes: traversing the breadth of temporal and spatial scales in biogeochemistry.” The meeting will consist of several thematic sessions led by keynote speakers who are experts in their field. The topics covered in the 23<sup>rd</sup> ISEB Symposium are:

- Biogeochemistry of mined/industrial environments and impacts of resource extraction
- Frontier techniques in environmental biogeochemistry and microbiology (e.g. – omics)
- Aquatic and terrestrial microbiology including studies on extreme environments
- Impacts of pollutants on ecosystems and their remediation
- Biological interactions and transformations of metallic and organic contaminants in the environment
- Soil, water and landscape processes (including atmospheric fluxes/interactions)
- Microbe-mineral-organic matter interactions
- Marine and coastal biogeochemistry (special focus on tropical coastal systems e.g. reefs)

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## Renew Your IAGC Membership for 2017!

Don't forget to renew your IAGC membership for 2017 before January so you don't miss any issues of *Elements* magazine! Our annual membership fee is STILL only \$25 and includes a hard copy subscription to *Elements* as well as online access. Membership also rewards you with lower cost registration rates at IAGC-sponsored working group conferences.

Online access to our journal, *Applied Geochemistry*, is available 2017 at \$62 for student members and \$83 for professional members. You must pay your IAGC dues in order to purchase *Applied Geochemistry*.

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