



# Newsletter

of the

# International Association of GeoChemistry

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Newsletter Editor – Chris Gardner,  
[BusinessOffice@IAGC-Society.org](mailto:BusinessOffice@IAGC-Society.org)

## Announcement of Business Office Transition

After 12 years of running the Business Office for our organization, I am officially stepping down at the end of 2022. It has been a great experience growing with the IAGC over the past decade, through my PhD, then transitioning into a Research Scientist position as a professional geochemist. My new position precludes me from continuing in the role, but the IAGC will be in good hands with Devin Smith. I will continue to assist Devin over the next several months as we transition, and I will also continue to serve the IAGC as a general member on the Strategic Planning Committee. I'm proud of all we've accomplished over the past 12 years and very thankful for all the support I've received. Best of luck to Devin, and I hope to continue to be involved in the organization throughout my career!

Chris Gardner  
IAGC Business Office Manager  
[BusinessOffice@IAGC-Society.org](mailto:BusinessOffice@IAGC-Society.org)

## New Business Office Manager, Devin Smith

Devin Smith will be starting as the IAGC Business Manager in January, 2023. Devin graduated from The Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio USA, with her Masters (May 2019) and her PhD in Earth Sciences (August 2022). Prior to her

education at Ohio State, she received her Bachelor of Science from Villanova University, Villanova Pennsylvania USA (May 2017). Devin is currently a postdoctoral scholar in the School of Earth Sciences at Ohio State, where she is part of an international research team studying the hydrology and geochemistry of Irish peatlands. Researchers at Ohio State work closely with colleagues at the University of Galway (Republic of Ireland) and Queen's University Belfast (Northern Ireland) to quantify biogeochemical cycling in these wetlands. When not thinking about Irish peatlands, Devin enjoys studying waters closer to home. She has been involved with multiple studies that focuses on Ohio precipitation, soil, and river systems.



University of Torino, Université de Paris XI, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation). She also worked as a consultant for Italian and International institutions (INFN, ANDRA, OCDE Nuclear Energy Agency, ANSTO) in the fields of radioactive waste disposal and radiochemical contamination monitoring. Occasionally, she collaborates as expert or tutor with the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the frame of Technical Cooperation Projects. Her main interests are in water, sediment and soil pollution, water-rock interaction and environmental applications of isotope geochemistry. She is author of 65 papers on international peer reviewed journals, two books, of which one published by the OCDE, two book chapters and more than 70 contributions to national and international conferences. Since 2011 she is an Associate Editor for Applied Geochemistry and since 2019 Council Member of the International Association of GeoChemistry.

## Leadership Announcements

### Vice-President

**Elisa Sacchi** is the new incoming Vice-President of the IAGC. She graduated in Earth Sciences in 1990 and obtained her Ph.D. in Geochemistry in 1995. Since 2002, she has been at the University of Pavia as Researcher, and since 2015 as Associate Professor. She is officially in charge of teaching Geochemistry and Environmental Geochemistry for students of Earth, Natural and Environmental Sciences. During her post-graduate studies, she developed her research activity in the field of Environmental Geochemistry, obtaining numerous fellowships and contracts (Government of Canada Award,



### Applied Geochemistry Editor-in-Chief

**Michael Kersten** is stepping down after serving the last 10 years as Executive Editor of the society's official journal, *Applied Geochemistry*. The association owes a great dept of gratitude to Professor Kersten. He steered for many successful special issues and brought the journal to its current IF of 3.8 maintaining its high quality and international reputation, while also maintaining a burgeoning research group at the Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz (Germany). Current Co-editor-in-Chief Zimeng Wang will serve as the sole Executive Editor of the journal.



## Support for geochemists in low- and middle-income countries

During renewal, IAGC members have been giving generously to support our new initiatives to support geochemists from low- and middle-income countries. As of the time of this writing, **73 memberships available**. Share this broadly so we can get more scientists from these countries involved in our society!

## REMINDER: Open Call for Emerging Investigator Series

The aim of this Series is to highlight excellent work by independent researchers in their early career that bring new insights into the field of geochemistry or to promote geochemical applications. Multidisciplinary work related to applied geochemistry, biogeochemical processes, and environmental geochemistry are also highly welcomed. Featured articles as well as the authors as emerging investigators will be extensively advertised to diverse disciplines and communities through multiple platforms of the journal and the International Association of GeoChemistry. The selected Emerging Investigators will also be considered as candidates for the early career honors bestowed by IAGC and the editorial engagements with *Applied Geochemistry*.

### Application

Applicants should have completed their PhD (or equivalent degree) within the last 10 years, and have an independent career. Apply to the Emerging Investigators Series by contacting Editor-in-Chief, [Zimeng Wang](#) with the following information:

- Your up-to-date CV with full name, affiliation, contact information. The CV should be no longer than 3 pages and include the education and career, a (selected) list of publications, professional achievement, honors and awards, and a website of applicant's group if available.
- A synopsis of the article intended to be submitted to the Series, including a tentative submission date. Please see <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/applied-geochemistry/> for more information on the manuscript types and other instructions for authors. Regular research article, rapid communication, feature article, and critical review are all acceptable to the Series.

### Reviewing Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the editors and the advisory board of the journal. The relevant criteria for reviewing will be based on the following:

- originality and novelty of the research
- scientific quality of the research
- potential for significant impact
- balancing factors related to inclusion and diversity

The selected applicants will receive formal invitation from the journal to submit their featured articles. Please note that submitted articles for the series will still undergo the same rigorous peer-review process as regularly submitted papers.

This is an ongoing series with featured articles being added into the collection of Emerging Investigator Series continuously and displayed on the media of the journal and IAGC.

## GES-12 Meeting Report

From July 24-29, 2022, the 12<sup>th</sup> Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface Symposium (GES12) took place at ETH Zurich in Switzerland. The GES Symposium series is organized under the umbrella of the International Organization of GeoChemistry (IAGC). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, GES12 was postponed twice but we were happy that the meeting could finally take place this past summer, and around 140 people attended.



The GES12 symposium had the overarching theme “Earth system interactions on a changing planet” and had a special focus on geochemical research connecting the different Earth’s spheres and interfaces. For many conference participants, it was the first in-person conference since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.



GES12 started on Sunday afternoon with welcome drinks at the Icebreaker reception, where the participants could enjoy a beautiful summer evening on the ETH Poly terrace with a view over Zurich  
Photo credit: Claude Barrault

The program consisted of four days of plenary talks, poster & networking sessions and one day of excursions to the Alpine town Davos. Thanks to our partners and sponsors we could offer an interesting supporting program. Furthermore, we could reduce the registration fees of five talented students, thanks to European Association of Geochemistry (EAG) sponsored scholarships.

On Monday, the scientific part of the program started with talks by leaders in their respective fields, alternated by interactive poster and networking sessions. The topics explored geochemistry from past to present to future: from Earth history in deep time to applying geochemical methods to tackle human health and climate change.



Lively exchange during the “buzz round”.  
Photo credit: Claude Barrault

To stimulate discussions, we introduced “buzz rounds” after each talk giving the audience the chance to briefly exchange opinions and ideas and talk about potential questions. These buzz rounds produced fruitful dialogs between the participants, who engaged in lively exchanges and came up with many interesting questions for the speakers. It was great to see the attendees enjoying the personal interactions again after a long period of mainly digital conferences.

During the extended poster sessions, over 100 posters were presented by students and more senior researchers. By the end of the symposium week, all participants could vote for the best student poster, i.e., the IAGC Faure Award that is dedicated to the Estonian geochemist Gunter Faure. The winner was Ankita Chauhan from University of Tuebingen with her poster “Trans(formation) of Fe-C aggregates in permafrost systems under redox fluctuation”. Congratulations again to Ankita!



GES12 participants interacting during a poster and networking session. Photo credit: Claude Barrault

On Tuesday evening, we were happy to host a pre-retirement party for Dr. Janet Hering, who will retire at the end of 2022 as Director of Eawag. Many GES12 participants came together to greet Janet and to enjoy a memorable evening above the roofs of Zurich accompanied by great food and cold drinks.



Sunset over Zurich taken during Janet Hering’s pre-retirement party. Photo credit: Lenny Winkel

Wednesday was a special day with our trip to Davos, located in the heart of the Alps. We visited research facilities and field sites operated by the WSL Institute of Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF). We thank the SLF staff members who enthusiastically shared their knowledge of alpine



GES12 participants on a hiking trail greeted environmental research with the GES12 participants. Some of the excursions also included hikes in the beautiful surroundings. In the afternoon we all gathered at the historic hotel Schatzalp where we learned more about avalanche research from the SLF director, Dr. Jürg Schweizer.

On Thursday night, we organized a banquet dinner in the restaurant “Zunfthaus zur Zimmerleuten”, located in the old town in Zurich in a medieval building. The people enjoyed the cozy get-together and there was a lively exchange between senior researchers and students.



Conference dinner in a historic setting  
Photo credit: Claude Barrault

To conclude, we hope that the participants could enjoy an interesting and varied symposium week and got ample chance to meet people and discuss the latest research and ideas for future collaborations.

We received a lot of positive feedback, and we are happy that we could offer this platform for scientific exchanges in the frame of the GES Symposium series. Finally, we would like to thank again all attendees, our partners and sponsors, members of the local and scientific organizing committees and all helpers for their great support.



Enjoying coffee and cake in stunning surroundings at hotel Schatzalp in Davos. Photo credit: Claude Barrault

-Lenny Winkel, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee and Professor of Inorganic Environmental Geochemistry, ETH Zurich & Eawag.

## Association News

### EXTENDED 2023 IAGC Awards – Call for Nominations

We strongly encourage members to nominate peers and colleagues who make significant contributions to the advancement of geochemistry for one or more of the numerous

IAGC awards. Award nominations for 2023 **have been extended through January 15, 2023**. You may nominate colleagues for the following awards, using the [Award Nomination Cover Sheet](#).

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

<https://www.iagc-society.org/Ebelmen-Award>

**The Harmon Distinguished Service Award** - bestowed to 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.

<https://www.iagc-society.org/Distinguished-Service>

**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.

<https://www.iagc-society.org/Distinguished-Service>

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

<https://www.iagc-society.org/Kharaka-Award>

## Charitable Giving

Members can make a charitable gift to IAGC to support special initiatives during online membership renewal. We are asking our members to sponsor memberships to professional geochemists and students from low- and middle-income countries at a cost of \$15 each. Thanks to our members' generosity, we have **73 memberships available**. Spread the word about the IAGC to your colleagues around the world!

We would like to formally thank the following members for donations to the above funds so far during 2022:

Akhtar Jahan  
Alan Shiller  
Alecoss  
Demetriades  
Andrea Johansen  
Brian Gulson  
Charles Gabriel  
Dirk Kirste  
Donald DePaolo  
Fred Mackenzie  
Hailin Deng  
Iñaki Vadillo  
Jim Finley  
Joel Brugger  
Klaus Neumann  
Mark Reed  
Michael Kersten  
Mohamed Faisal  
Mohsin Raza  
Nancy Hinman  
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Niklaus Waber  
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Steven Banwart  
Stuart  
Winchester

Valdimir Shulkin  
Veselin Mladeno  
W Berry Lyons  
Yousif Kharaka

Donate now through the IAGC web site (<https://www.iagc-society.org/donate>)

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

## Renew Your Membership for 2023!

Don't forget to renew your IAGC membership for 2022 by January so you don't miss any issues of *Elements* magazine! Our annual membership is \$40 for professionals and \$15 for students and geochemists from low- and middle-income countries and includes a hard copy subscription to *Elements* magazine 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.

[View IAGC Profile](#)

## Elsevier IAGC Student Research Grant Update

Thank you for spreading the word about our 2023 Student Research Grants – this year we received over 50 proposals from PhD students around the world. We plan to fully support five proposals this year, plus an additional one from a low- or middle-income country, thanks to generous support from our members. The announcement of the winners will be on or before 1-May, 2023.

<https://www.iagc-society.org/Student-Research-Grants>

### Catching up with a Previous Student Research Grant Recipient

In 2019 I received an IAGC grant for my PhD research at the University of Melbourne. This grant helped with analytical costs for my research investigating Pb isotopes in the Australian regolith. In collaboration with Geoscience Australia we were able to develop the first continent-wide Pb isotopic regolith map of Australia. The methods used (intermediate-precision Pb isotope analysis by fast-throughput SF-ICP-MS without Pb purification) were recently described in *Applied Geochemistry* [1] and we are currently working on publishing the results. One of the main outcomes of this work will be an isotopic map based on >1000 regolith samples; this can be used for isoscape purposes. Other outcomes include continent-scale Pb isotope and model parameter (Th/U, U/Pb) averages and constraints on relationships of



regolith compositions with temporal and spatial variability in bedrock ages and types. The work also investigated the utility of a 2-stage partial leaching technique to separate loosely-bound (atmospheric, groundwater) and geogenic Pb in a large-scale Pb isotope surveys such as this.

Since completing my PhD in February 2022 I started lecturing at the University of Melbourne teaching postgraduate students in Environmental Impact Assessment while continuing to work in the environmental sector at Edge Group. I am very grateful for the IAGC Research Grants Program.

-Candan Desem

- [1] Desem, C.U., Maas, R., Woodhead, J., Carr, G., and Greig, A. 2022. The utility of rapid throughput single-collector sector-field ICP-MS for soil Pb isotope studies. *Applied Geochemistry*, 143, 105361.

## **Water-Rock Interaction WRI-17 and Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG-14) in Sendai, Japan**

After years of COVID-related delay, the 2<sup>nd</sup> IAGC International Conference (WRI-17 and AIG-14) will be held in Sendai, Japan 18 August through 22 August, 2023. Join us in Japan!



The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Association of Geochemistry (IAGC) Conference

**Water-Rock Interaction WRI-17**  
**Applied Isotope Geochemistry AIG-14**  
in SENDAI 2023

[www.wri17.com](http://www.wri17.com)

***Registration:***

June 2022 – June 2023

***Abstract Submission for Oral Presentation:***

August 2022 – January 31, 2023

***Abstract Submission for Poster Presentation:***

August 2022 – March 31, 2023

## IAGC Executive Officers

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Zimeng Wang  
Fudan University  
CHINA

### **BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER**

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The Ohio State University  
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Email: [BusinessOffice@IAGC-Society.org](mailto:BusinessOffice@IAGC-Society.org)

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Online access to our journal, *Applied Geochemistry*, is available 2023. Our 2022 rates are still available for a few weeks at \$75 for student members and \$100 for professional members. We expect this price to rise after Elsevier updates their costs for 2023. You must pay your IAGC dues in order to purchase *Applied Geochemistry*.

To renew online using a credit card, via check, or to simply check your membership status, follow the link below

[View IAGC Profile](#)