



International Association of GeoChemistry

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Rivalries, Cooperation, and Friendships

During the recent Winter Olympics, the television coverage here in Colorado was heavily slanted towards athletes from the USA, but one couldn't help but see the large number of countries represented at the Games. Even though the athletes are highly competitive, one also couldn't miss seeing the camaraderie they share. I am struck by the similarities to our Society—international in scope and composition, but I hope with much more emphasis on the camaraderie than the competition! A little healthy rivalry helps us all, to be sure, but my experience tells me that our rivalries take a back seat to the numerous international collaborations, linkages, and friendships we share in our geochemical community. These linkages are on full display in our working group meetings. In 2013 two of our working groups had tremendously successful meetings, one of which is described on this page. Two more are planned for 2014, including the inaugural meeting of our revitalized Urban Geochemistry Working Group. Our working groups and our Society thrive because of the efforts of all of us, so I encourage you to get to as many of the WG meetings as possible.

On a related note, one person who has been a tremendously valuable contributor to our Society is getting ready to retire. Tom Bullen has been the secretary of IAGC since 2008, but he has been active in IAGC for as long as I can remember. He has been a pivotal member of our Water-Rock Interaction and Applied Isotope Geochemistry working groups, and he will be missed by all of us. On the other hand, as a personal friend, I congratulate Tom on a truly illustrious career in geochemistry and for the numerous contributions he has made over the years, particularly in the field of isotope geochemistry. Well done, my friend! Tom's retirement leaves a big gap in our Society, not only for his scientific contributions but also his role as secretary. Thus we are currently seeking someone willing to serve as secretary in Tom's place. If you are interested, please contact Tom directly at tdbullen@usgs.gov. He will be able to tell you what the major jobs are and how much time commitment is involved.

Richard Wanty, USGS
IAGC President

MEETING REPORT

10th Applied Isotope Geochemistry Conference (AIG-10)

The Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG) Working Group of the International Association of GeoChemistry (IAGC) organizes a series of highly successful biennial conferences focused broadly on the emerging field of applied isotope geochemistry and biogeochemistry. The 10th Applied Isotope Geochemistry Conference was held on September 22–27, 2013, in Budapest, Hungary. The venue was the marvellous main building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. A total of 180 abstracts was received, and the presentations were distributed among ten sessions: Biogeochemistry and ecological applications, Recent applications and developments in dendroisotopes, Isotope techniques in environmental geochemistry, Isotope geochemistry of natural gases, Isotope geochemistry of sedimentary to high-temperature geological processes and ore deposits, Isotope hydrology as a tool for water-supply policy, Isotope studies in hydrocarbon exploration, Nongeoscience applications (archeometry, forensic studies, food authenticity, medical studies, doping investigations, etc.), Isotopic tools to study the fate of organic contaminants, and Paleoclimatology and paleoenvironmental changes.



The AIG-10 group

More than 150 participants arrived from 38 countries, and participants delivered 73 talks and presented 80 posters. The conference started with an icebreaker party on Sunday held at the venue, where the participants could enjoy the local atmosphere, food and drinks, the view of the Buda castle, and lively chats. The scientific program started on Monday with conventional geological research subjects, followed by sessions on paleoclimate, dendrochemistry, and nongeoscience applications. The paleoclimate session continued on Tuesday, along with presentations on environmental research and studies on hydrocarbon gases. Wednesday was a "social day," when many of the participants visited the historic town of Eger, tasted local wines, and visited the travertine terraces formed by carbonate precipitation from hot water flowing from a drill hole.

Thursday was dominated by environmental research and isotope hydrology, whereas on Friday biogeochemistry and isotope studies on organic compounds were the main focus. At the end of the conference a session on hydrocarbon exploration was held, with special emphasis on nonconventional hydrocarbon reserves and the potential impact of hydraulic fracturing on the environment. The meeting closed with a wine tasting at the venue, with more than 50 participants persisting up to the very end ("and indeed the wine was very good," said Tom Bullen).

Based on the feedback received by the organizers during and after the conference, the participants had a happy and successful week in Budapest. The number of presentations was sufficient to organize specialized sessions that reached the critical mass needed to have colleagues interact effectively, thus making the meeting a success for the individual participants.

The meeting was supported by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences who provided the venue, by the International Association of GeoChemistry as main sponsor, and by financial contributions from several analytical companies (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Elementar Analysensysteme GmbH, IVA Analysentechnik e. K., OEA Laboratories Limited), all of them contributing to the success. Thanks to the sponsors, the registration fees of 27 young colleagues were provided, making the conference a lively one with a good number of researchers in the starting phase of their career.

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