

KIM TAIT APPOINTED THE INAUGURAL TECK CHAIR IN MINERALOGY

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The Royal Ontario Museum has appointed Dr. Kim Tait as the inaugural Teck Chair in Mineralogy. Dr. Tait, a ROM curator of natural history and associate professor of geology at the University of Toronto, joined the Museum in 2007. She holds a bachelor of science in geology from the University of Manitoba and a PhD in geosciences from the University of Arizona, and is a fellow of the Canadian Gemmological Association.

The Teck Chair is a new position at the Museum, endowed by Vancouver-based diversified resource company Teck as part of its commitment to support leading-edge research in Earth sciences at the ROM. In her new role, Kim will lead scholarly research, publications, and strategic acquisitions. She will contribute to ROM Earth & Space by developing permanent galleries, major exhibitions, public programming, and education. Kim has been a councilor of the Mineralogical Society of America and the Mineralogical Association of Canada.

HUMBOLDT FOUNDATION AWARDS

Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award



David Peter Dobson of the Department of Earth sciences, University College London, is the recipient of a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award, granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in recognition of lifetime achievements in high-pressure research. David Dobson graduated in geology from Bristol University in 1991 and received his PhD from the University of London in 1996. He performs high-pressure measurements of the physical properties of minerals

using in situ multi-anvil press techniques. His areas of interest include the transport properties and rheology of mantle minerals, the origin of deep seismicity, iron–nickel–light-element alloy systems, and studies of post-perovskite analogue phases. Press work extends into David's personal life, where he is an accomplished relief printmaker with his own antique Columbian press.

Humboldt Research Awards

The Humboldt Foundation grants up to 100 Humboldt Research Awards annually. The awards are granted to academics whose fundamental discoveries, new theories, or insights have had a significant impact on their own discipline and who are expected to continue making cutting-edge achievements in the future. Academics from abroad, regardless of their discipline or nationality, may be nominated by established academics in Germany. Award winners are invited to spend a period of up to one year cooperating on a long-term research project with specialist colleagues at a research institution in Germany. The award is valued at 60,000 euros. Three members of our community received such an award in 2014.



Bjørn Jamtveit is internationally known for his outstanding achievements in the application of physical principles to pattern formation in the Earth. He has investigated patterns over a range of spatial scales, from micron-scale compositional periodicities in individual minerals to travertine terrace periodicities in hot springs and fracture patterns associated with mineral reactions. In Germany he intends to work at the University of Münster on a combination of modeling and laboratory experiments on nanoscale fracturing during fluid–mineral reactions.



Simon P. Turner is a leading geochemist and geochronologist at Macquarie University in Australia. He has worked on a broad range of topics related to igneous petrology and geochemistry, including granite genesis, sediment provenance, crustal growth, and the origin of continental flood basalt and mid-ocean ridge, ocean island, and island arc lavas. He is an international authority on the application of short-lived, uranium-series isotopes to constrain the timescales of magma formation,

transport, and differentiation, as well as soil production and erosion rates. During his stay in Germany, he will use uranium-series data and other geochemical tools to solve a wide variety of problems related to the timing of magmatic processes and the origin of volcanism at the South Atlantic mid-ocean ridge, the Kamchatka subduction zone, and intraplate volcanic regions, such as the Canary Islands.



Howard J. Spero is a leading geobiologist and geochemist at the University of California at Davis. His pioneering contributions have been influential in advancing the field of paleoceanography. Through laboratory experiments with living planktonic foraminifera, he has groundtruthed relationships between environmental properties, such as temperature, salinity, and pH, and foraminifera shell geochemistry to reconstruct past environmental conditions and ocean chemistry from

the fossil record. His research has produced an array of new tools that have allowed scientists to resolve major changes in Earth's climate system over the last 50 million years. In Germany, he will continue his research at the Alfred-Wegener-Institut Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung, especially with regard to reconstructing the ocean's carbonate system and carbon cycle, in order to more fully link paleoclimatology with predictions of future climate scenarios in a high-CO₂ world. He was chosen as the Faculty Research Lecturer for 2014 at the University of California at Davis. The Faculty Research Lecture Award is the highest honor the Davis Division of the Academic Senate accords its members.

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