



Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

www.sfmc-fr.org

SFMC ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2016–2017

SFMC members have elected a new council for 2016–2017 (see <http://sfmc-fr.org> for details):

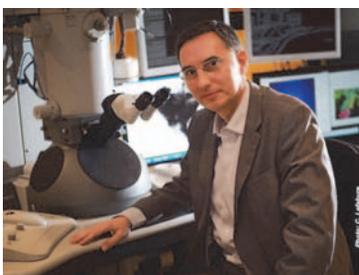
BOARD: Bertrand Devouard (president), Michel Grégoire (vice president), François Farges (2nd vice president), Marc Blanchard (secretary), Etienne Balan (assistant secretary), Christian Chopin (treasurer), Armand Masion (vice treasurer), Monique Seyler (bulletin editor)

COUNCILORS: Pierre Barré, Amélie Bordage, Eloïse Gaillou, Michel Jullien, Pierre Lanari (2016–2019); Damien Daval, Simonpietro Di Piero, Lydéric France, Marguerite Godard, Armand Masion (2014–2017). **AUDITORS:** Jannick Ingrin, Michel Madon.

For their dedicated service, the SFMC thanks past-president Bruno Goffé and outgoing councilors Anne-Line Auzende, Sylvain Bernard, Anne-Marie Boullier, Guy Libourel, Mathieu Roskosz, Stéphanie Rossano, Brigitte Zanda.

PATRICK CORDIER RECEIVES THE DANA MEDAL 2016 OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) has awarded its Dana Medal for 2016 to Patrick Cordier in recognition of his outstanding original mineralogical research. The internationally recognized Dana Medal has been awarded annually since 2001. Patrick Cordier is a Past President of the SFMC (2008–2010) and is currently a professor at Lille University in the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) laboratory Unité Matériaux et Transformations (UMET). He was elected an MSA Fellow in 2008 and was awarded an ERC Advanced Grant in 2012 for his project on the deformation of the Earth's mantle. He is the first French and only the second European scientist to receive the Dana Medal. The medal ceremony was held during the VGP/MSA joint reception at the American Geophysical Union's 2015 Fall Meeting.



SERPENTINE DAYS 2016

The 4th international 'Serpentine Days' workshop, sponsored by the SFMC, will be held 25–29 September 2016 in Sète (France).

This workshop highlights multidisciplinary research on serpentines and serpentinization and will bring together scientists with an interest in the geological, physical and (bio-)chemical processes of serpentinization and the life that serpentine sustains. Additionally, the workshop will feature scientists who explore how serpentine and serpentinites can be developed as mineral resources and as new energy sources and who investigate the environmental and societal impact of serpentinite exploration and exploitation. The workshop will be followed by a one-and-a-half-day field trip to the Lherz massif in the Pyrenees (30 September–1 October 2016). Participation will be limited to 120 attendees. Deadline for application and abstract submission is 4 July 2016.

Organizing committee: Marguerite Godard (Géosciences Montpellier), Bénédicte Ménez (Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris), José-Alberto Padrón-Navarta (Géosciences Montpellier), Bruno Reynard (Laboratoire de Géologie de Lyon).

For further information: serpentines2016.gm.univ-montp2.fr and serpentinedays@gm.univ-montp2.fr.



Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

www.socminpet.it

WELCOME ADDRESS BY ALESSANDRO PAVESE (SIMP PRESIDENT 2016–2017)

Dear Friends and Colleagues,



Alessandro Pavese

On behalf of SIMP, and personally, I wish to express our gratitude and thanks to past-president Bernardo Cesare, who served the society with extraordinary dedication and passion. We all wish him well.

For my opening address in *Elements*, I wish to discuss a matter of some importance to Italian geoscience, in the broadest sense. In Italy, scientific research – in our case, mineralogy, petrology and related disciplines – suffers from a kind of dichotomy: the positive international perception of our “scientific results”, which suggests all is well, against that of the negative local perception of our “working conditions”, which suggests all is not well. The positive, externally based, view (and one probably taken by most readers of *Elements*) derives from the fact that Italian science publishes high-impact papers, boosts research activities, fosters world-class young scientists, and develops relationships with industry and other third party institutions. Italian scientists are involved in international panels for the allocation of beam time at large-scale facilities, they participate in international editorial boards, and they have a relevant role in organizing committees. SIMP itself is acting as host to the forthcoming European Mineralogical Conference (EMC) 2016, in Rimini. All this would suggest a healthy scientific community and environment.

However, this “happy and idyllic” picture changes abruptly when looked at from “within”. Notwithstanding the undeniable impact that our scientific disciplines have had upon society and daily life – developing plans for sustainable exploitation of natural resources, optimizing raw materials in transformation processes, assessing and managing environmental risks and hazards, and so on – the Earth sciences in Italy are suffering from a severe contraction. This adversely affects both research funding and human resources. Other disciplines share our difficulties, but the comparatively small size of the Italian geoscience community within the broader science spectrum makes the present situation critical if we want to fully preserve our culture, operating capacity and even “survival”. One result of this contraction is that there are only eight Earth science departments now in the entire country!

With this situation in mind, and carrying on the past SIMP presidents' policy, I think the efforts over the next two years will be to give equal priority to the following two themes. First, reinforce the relationships between Italian geosciences organizations and to improve the national coordination. This will more effectively promote the type of public policy that the Earth sciences need. Second, increase the number of high-profile international collaborations and share prominent cultural added-value initiatives. This could apply to working more closely with the EMC and with the German, Spanish and French mineralogical societies. We could give more support to the ever-higher-performing *European Journal of Mineralogy*. The end result will be to have a strong sense of pride in belonging to SIMP. But even more than that, SIMP will be able to demonstrate to young researchers, who are facing difficult times, that through our plans and actions, the society is actually investing in them for the future of our discipline.

That is quite a lot to take on. But I shall do my best!

Alessandro Pavese
University of Milan, Italy