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PROFESSOR EMILIO GALÁN BECOMES AN SEM HONORARY MEMBER

Professor Emilio Galán (University of Sevilla, Spain) has become a Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) Honorary Member, an accolade commemorated by his plenary lecture (“A New Methodological Approach for the Evaluation of Soil Pollution by Trace Elements”) at the 2nd European Mineralogical Conference 2016 (emc²⁰¹⁶), which was held 11–15 September 2016 in Rimini (Italy). Spanish Mineralogical Society bylaws state that those awarded an SEM Honorary Member must



President Juan Jiménez (right) and Emilio Galán (left) during the award ceremony at the emc²⁰¹⁶.

be a prestigious researcher or must have significantly contributed to dignify and develop the SEM itself. Considering Prof. Galán's scientific eminence in mineralogy, as demonstrated by the publication of outstanding original scientific research and by the impact of this research on the mineral sciences, as well as his contribution to the establishment and function of the Spanish Mineralogical Society, the SEM General Assembly (held 2 July 2014 in Granada) approved his appointment as SEM Honorary Member.

Professor Emilio Galán has received many honours over

his career. These include the prestigious Pioneer in Clay Science Lecture Award of the Clay Minerals Society, the Medal of the University of Pavia, and is an Honorary Member with clay societies and groups from Italy, Spain and the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Emilio has also played an important role in the Spanish Mineralogical Society. He was Founder Member of our society in 1975 (member number 2) and assumed the responsibility of treasurer until 1980. After 20 years of intense scientific activity with the SEM, as well as with other clay and mineralogical societies, Emilio returned to the Executive Board of the SEM as president from 2002 to 2005. During this period, he advocated changes to the structure and the objectives of the SEM. Two important changes were carried out regarding the international projection of the society and the organization of our meetings. From the international point of view, in 2003 the Spanish Mineralogical Society became a partner in the *European Journal of Mineralogy*, together the German, French and Italian mineralogical societies. Regarding the organization of the SEM meetings, Emilio reinvented it such that, since 2003, every meeting has included a workshop that explores the latest advances in selected topics of current interest, the proceedings of which are published in the Seminar series of the Spanish Mineralogical Society. And, since 2003, the abstracts presented at the annual meeting have been published in the journal *Macla*.

Emilio has a rare ability to detect topics of interest to the SEM. For example, he has pioneered studies that have led to important new directions in clay minerals science and technology as applied to environmental problems or to the remediation and conservation of cultural heritage. As consequence of this scientific activity, he has supervised 22 PhD students and trained several generations of researchers on metallic mineral deposits, industrial minerals, clay minerals, protection and conservation of cultural heritage, and environmental miner-

alogy. He has been author or co-author of more than 300 articles in journals with a high impact factor, has edited 18 books and has been a principal researcher or a significant contributor to 74 research projects. He has participated in 70 national and international meetings, either as member of the Scientific Committee, Organizing Committee, Chairman of scientific sessions or as an invited lecture. He has presented more than 150 communications at these meetings.

The Spanish Mineralogical Society thanks Professor Emilio Galán deeply and warmly for agreeing to accept the award of Honorary Member. He was never in the society to take something from us: he was always here to help our society and to further the understanding of mineral science.

Juan Jiménez, SEM President

YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARDS FOR THE BEST LECTURES



Alba Lozano and Javier García-Rivas, the two young researcher winners, with Juan Jiménez (SEM President).

Two awards were given to the best lectures given by young Spanish researchers at emc²⁰¹⁶. The winners were Javier García Rivas (University of Salamanca) for “Geochemistry and Biomarker Analysis of the Bentonites from Esquivias (Madrid)” and Alba Lozano Letellier [Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDAEA-CSIC)] for “REY mineralogy of wastes from acid mine drainage treatment” [REY = rare earth elements and yttrium]. Congratulations to the awardees!

NEW SEM COUNCILLORS

On 13 September 2016, during the general assembly held at emc²⁰¹⁶, SEM members voted in the council election. We thank all the SEM members who participated and we are specially grateful to all the candidates who agreed to stand. The new members of council will be Asunción Alias (University of Murcia), Agustina Fernández (University of Salamanca), Carlos Rodríguez (University of Granada), Antonio Romero (University of Sevilla) and Nuria Sánchez (University Complutense of Madrid). All of them will join the SEM council in January 2017. Welcome to the new members!