



# International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

## IAG SPRING COUNCIL MEETING



Members of IAG's Council who attended the spring 2018 meeting at the CRPG in Nancy (France). From left to right: Chris Jackson (Hon. Treasurer), Peter Webb (Manager, GeoPT Programme), Ed Williams (Publication Manager, *GGR*), Dieter Garbe-Schönberg, Phil Potts (Chair, IAG Certification Committee), Thomas Meisel (IAG President), Martin Rosner, Regina Mertz, Jenny Cook (Hon. Secretary), Mathieu Benoit, Michael Wiedenbeck, Doug Miles (CEO IAGeo Limited), JacintaENZweiler (IAG Vice President) and Klaus-Peter Jochum (Head of GeoREM database). CREDIT: T. MEISEL

The spring meeting of the International Association of Geoanalysts (IAG) Council was held on Monday, 23 April 2018, at the Centre de Recherches Pétrographiques et Géochimiques (CRPG) in Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy (France). This is very much home terrain for the IAG, as it was at the CRPG that our society's journal, *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research (GGR)*, was established in 1977. Now, 41 years later, the journal is still going strong with an impact factor 3.42. It was with pleasure that the April 2018 council meeting started off with a detailed presentation by Ed Williams, *GGR* Business and Publication Manager, reporting that all key bibliometric parameters of the journal remain either steady or are showing improvements.

The second major theme for Monday morning was that of the IAG's flagship Geoanalysis conference series, which will next be held 8–13 July 2018 at Macquarie University in Sydney (Australia). Early indication is that participation will be comparable to the previous Geoanalysis meeting, which was held in Austria in 2015. There have been high abstract and poster submission rates during the final few days prior to the 30 March 2018 abstract deadline. Council was also given detailed insight into the intensive efforts that are underway to optimize the conference schedule while holding the overlapping parallel activities to an absolute minimum. Council commended the efforts of the Geoanalysis 2018 organizing committee, and, in particular, the committee chair, Dorrit Jacob.

The July 2018 Geoanalysis conference in Australia also marks the end of yet another three-year cycle for our association; thus, the IAG Council also devoted significant time towards organizing the required elections for the new governing council, which will be seated in July. The three elected officer positions, as well as all six regular members of council, are up for election over the coming months. The deadline for submitting nominations was set by council for the end of May 2018.

Monday afternoon was devoted to reports from the plethora of activities that are led by the IAG in support of the geoanalytical community. The five key topics were the following: (1) A report from the IAG's Certification and Reference Material Committee; (2) Reports from the two ongoing proficiency testing programmes run by the IAG; (3) Discussions on how to develop further the IAG award programme; (4) An in-depth presentation about the status of the many efforts undertaken by IAGeo Limited, the trading arm of our association; (5) A report on the activities of IAG in its role as an official liaison member within ISO/REMCO [International Organization for Standardization, Reference Material Committee], the global organization overseeing the harmonization of reference material standards across the analytical

sciences. The date and location for the next meeting of IAG's Council will be set once the new council is seated in July.

## VIRTUAL SPECIAL ISSUE ON ISOTOPE REFERENCE MATERIAL STANDARDS — CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Over the years, *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research* has produced a suite of virtual issues, available for download from the *GGR* website. Such issues compile milestone publications on specific themes within the field of geoanalysis. Here we announce the new virtual special issue, "Development, Characterization and Certification of Isotope Reference Materials and Matrix Standards". This issue is dedicated to the characterization of the next generation of calibration materials needed for isotope-ratio determinations in the geosciences.

Isotope reference materials are an indispensable tool needed to calibrate and validate analytical procedures employed for the determination of isotope ratios, be these absolute ratio values or ones based on so-called  $\delta$  scales. However, the production of suitable isotope reference materials, especially for non-traditional isotope systems, has not kept pace with instrument development progress or with the ever-increasing calibration needs of the geoanalyst. This new *GGR* virtual special issue is intended to address this bottleneck, and, hence, is not restricted to either matrix (be it solid, liquid or gas) or isotope systems. Here, *GGR* invites contributions ranging from mono-element materials to complex natural matrices (e.g. rocks, minerals, waters). This new initiative is intended to attract contributions on isotope systems that span the complete mass range from hydrogen to uranium, the only constraint being that the contribution must somehow be related to isotope-based research on geological and environmental samples.

## 2018 EARLY CAREER AWARD



It is with great pleasure that the IAG announces the winner of its 2018 Young Scientist Award by recognizing the geoanalytical contributions made by **Dr. Alicia Cruz-Urbe** of the University of Maine (USA). Currently in her fourth year as the Edward Sturgis Grew Assistant Professor of Petrology and Mineralogy, the primary focus of Alicia's research is the geochemical connection between the metamorphism of a subducting oceanic slab and the geochemistry of any associated arc volcanics. She is particularly interested in single-element thermometry and in quantifying the spatial and temporal scales of equilibrium in metamorphic terranes.

The IAG's Awards Committee was particularly impressed by Alicia's work on developing and validating a new laser ablation-based strategy for analysing Ti abundance in quartz, which was published in *GGR* in March 2017. More recently, her research has combined laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICPMS) trace element analyses with secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) data on sulfur and oxygen isotopes in silicates and sulfides. Using this combined analytical approach, she is working to constrain the composition and evolution of fluids produced during devolatilisation of subducting slabs. In addition to her own research, Alicia also heads the recently installed MicroAnalytical Geochemistry and Isotope Center (MAGIC Lab) at the University of Maine, which houses an Agilent 8900 triple quadrupole mass spectrometer and NWR193 laser ablation system.

Dr. Cruz-Urbe will be presented with the IAG's award on Thursday, 16 August 2018 during the 2018 Goldschmidt plenary session in Boston (Massachusetts, USA). The IAG offers its warmest congratulations to Alicia for her many geoanalytical achievements.