The Clay Minerals Society

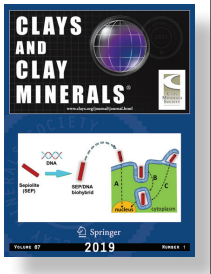
www.clays.org

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year!

Lynda B. Williams

As fast as the year will go, I hope we are all filled with excitement for the new beginning of a new year, which always brings new deadlines, new obligations, new challenges, but, more importantly, new opportunities for success, adventures, and discoveries. New leadership in The Clay Minerals Society is also ahead, with different perspectives and renewed energy to make a mark on the society's direction. We share the desire to move forward and to respect all those who contribute to making The Clay Minerals Society a welcoming home for international scientists and policy makers.



After many years of working to increase the profile of the research performed by our members and by other authors, The Clay Minerals Society council has chosen Springer Nature as its publishing partner in order to increase our visibility worldwide. The advantages to authors will be:

1. Access to > 9,000 institutional libraries.
2. Greatly reduced time between acceptance and publication online.
3. Immediate abstracting and indexing (appearing in, for example, the Web of Science, Google Scholar, and Scopus).
4. Marketing to a wide range of disciplines (materials science, energy, agriculture, medicine, climate, and others), not just the geoscience community.
5. No charge for color printing.
6. Upon publication of their paper, authors will immediately receive a URL for the version of record of their work, which they can share with interested parties. This link will allow any interested party, including grant agencies, access to the full-text version through Springer Nature's SharedIt tool.

This decision was not made lightly but followed many long hours of committee discussions and negotiations by Editor-in-Chief Joseph Stucki and Managing Editor Kevin Murphy. Our intention is to broaden the readership of our journal, to attract new interest and understanding of the wide variety of research conducted on clays, and to highlight our deep knowledge of clay minerals and their role in environmental and climate science, energy, agriculture, medicine, and materials. When you consider that the focus of this journal touches every aspect of human sustainability, it should be one of the premier journals in which the scientific public can discover critical advances in clay nanoscience and technology. The journal is produced with the backing and oversight of scores of talented clay specialists, thereby ensuring quality communication of our fundamental conceptual progress.

Please join me in thanking our editorial staff for their dedication and efforts on our behalf. We hope you will look for and enjoy reading the first issue of *Clays and Clay Minerals* published in partnership with Springer Nature in February 2019, which will include papers from The Clay Minerals Society's most recent workshop entitled Medicinal Applications of Clays. The issue will be guest-edited by Jin-Ho Choy from Ewha Woman's University (Republic of Korea).

Lynda B. Williams, Arizona State University
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President, The Clay Minerals Society

2018 CMS PROFESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

Prof. Stephen Hillier received the 2018 Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-Career Clay Scientist Award at the 55th Clay Minerals Society Annual Meeting, which took place at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA) in June 2018. Prof. Hillier gave an acceptance speech titled "Digital Soil Mineralogy". Steve is a clay mineralogist working in the Environment and Biochemical Sciences group at the James Hutton Institute (formerly the Macaulay Institute) (Scotland). He undertook his PhD at the University of Southampton (UK), followed by postdocs in Paris (France) and Bern (Switzerland), and he specializes in the identification and quantification of clay minerals by X-ray diffraction methods. He is also well known for his excellent track record in the Reynolds Cup competition for the best quantitative clay analysis. Steve's interests and publications currently centre on the use of quantitative clay mineralogical analysis to understand soil properties and the development of the data-driven programs to further the "Digital Soil Mineralogy" concept. He also leads the commercial mineralogy group at the James Hutton Institute. He is a visiting professor in the Department of Soil and Environment at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala and was Conference Chair for Euroclay 2015 in Edinburgh (Scotland). He is also Chair of the newly formed Clay Minerals Task Group of the International Centre for Diffraction Data, the reviews editor for *Clay Minerals*, Chair of the International Union of Soil Science Commission on Soil Mineralogy, and maintains the joint Clay Minerals Society/Mineralogical Society 'Images of Clay' archive.

STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Brian Joseph Ares from Michigan State University's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (USA) for winning the 2018 CMS Student Research Grant!

Brian's research focusses on the abundant authigenic illite cement that has been identified within the Mississippian age Michigan "Stray" sandstone and the Sandstone Member of the Marshall Formation in the Michigan Basin (USA). This illite has been petrographically determined to be the most recent event in the paragenetic sequence of these formations. The purpose of Brian's research is to evaluate the feasibility of multiple conflicting hypotheses regarding the source of potassium ions required for the formation of this illite cement within the sandstone facies. Petrographic light microscopy and scanning electron microscopy of samples taken from cores throughout the Michigan Basin will be used to characterize localities containing abundant illite and to provide input for modelling and mass-balance budgets. Inverse aqueous geochemical modelling will be used to determine the chemical composition of formational pore fluids. Powder X-ray diffraction will also be performed on highly illitic samples to evaluate illite crystallinity and to determine the temperature of illite formation.

CMS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2019!