



JEFF CATALANO NAMED EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF GCA



Jeff Catalano

The Geochemical Society (GS) and the Meteoritical Society (MS) are pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Catalano, Professor of Aqueous Geochemistry and Mineralogy at Washington University in St. Louis (USA), as the next Executive Editor of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*. This journal is jointly sponsored by the two societies and publishes research papers in a wide range of subjects in terrestrial geochemistry, meteoritics, and planetary geochemistry. Prof. Catalano began his term on 1 January 2019.

The Joint Publication Committee of the GS and MS conducted an international search last year to find a new editor to succeed outgoing editor Marc Norman. The committee was chaired by Steve Shirey and also included George Flynn, Mark Rehkamper, Thorsten Kleine, Jisun Park, and Tina van De Flierdt. These volunteers committed many hours to reviewing the applications and talking to the candidates. The societies are very grateful for the excellent work that they did!

Said Prof. Catalano in December 2018 upon his appointment, "I am grateful to the Geochemical Society and Meteoritical Society for selecting me as the next Executive Editor of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*. *GCA* is my home journal and has been since my days as a graduate student. I believe that my time as an Associate Editor along with all that I have learned over the years from my mentors, collaborators, students, and faculty colleagues have prepared me well to manage this journal. I hope that I can live up to the standard set by my predecessor, Marc Norman, and look forward to working with him on a smooth transition."

"My top priority as Executive Editor will be maintaining *GCA* as the leading disciplinary journal in the field of geochemistry. The excellent group of Associate Editors are critical to meeting this goal. These geochemists represent all branches of our field and their experience and knowledge ensures a rigorous and fair review process. I will work diligently to ensure that *GCA* stays the journal of choice for established researchers in geochemistry but also adapts to accommodate new directions and interests, as reflected in the diversity of research presented annually at the Goldschmidt Conference."

In addition to his duties as Executive Editor, Prof. Catalano will also serve as an ex-officio member of the GS board of directors.

MARC NORMAN COMPLETES TERM AS GCA EXECUTIVE EDITOR



Marc Norman

Prof. Marc Norman (Australian National University) retired from *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* in December 2018 after a successful six-year term as Executive Editor. During his tenure, the journal continued to grow in size and stature, achieving an impact factor of 4.690 in 2017 and a 5-year impact factor of 5.052. Each year, *GCA* routinely received more than 1,000 manuscripts ... and Prof. Norman read them all.

"Marc has done a remarkable job leading the journal during his tenure," said GS President Roberta Rudnick. "He is known for his fair treatment of every submission to *GCA* and for taking time to provide individual and constructive feedback to authors. He brought stability and efficiency to the journal, which can be clearly seen in metrics like an improved time-to-decision. Less quantifiable but just as important, Marc maintained *GCA*'s reputation as the most

important publication in geochemistry. On behalf of the Geochemical Society and the entire community, I thank him for his dedication, good judgement, and excellent stewardship of the journal."

In addition to the 24 regular volumes published each year, *GCA* also produced eight special issues during Prof. Norman's tenure. He was responsible for recruiting a large and diverse team of nearly 90 associate editors having expertise over the entire breadth of geochemistry and meteoritics.

GS ADOPTS A CODE OF ETHICS

In 2016, the GS board established an Ethics Committee to determine whether the society should adopt a formal code of behavior for its members. The society's bylaws have long stated that membership is open to "any person of good character and unchallenged basic scientific integrity and honesty." Beyond this general statement, however, the society had no official statement of what constitutes ethical behavior as it relates to the organization's programs and activities.

The committee quickly determined that a society of the GS's size should have a code of ethics to clearly state the values of professional behavior that its members aspire to. After studying other organizations' codes and consulting legal experts, it became clear that the society actually needed two documents: a code of conduct for all attendees of the Goldschmidt Conference (whether GS members or not) and a society code of ethics to define the "good character" mentioned in the bylaws.

Following nearly a year of development, the GS and the European Association of Geochemistry adopted the first code of conduct for a Goldschmidt Conference in 2018 (the Goldschmidt Conference is the joint annual meeting of the two societies). This code of conduct explains the conduct expected of anyone who participates in the conference and outlines a procedure for addressing any instances of harassment that might take place during the meeting.

With the conference policy in place, the Ethics Committee then turned to the code of ethics. The opening statement sets the tone: "As a professional society, the GS is committed to providing an open, diverse, and supportive environment and expects the highest standards of ethical conduct among its members and participants at its activities to encourage the free expression and exchange of scientific ideas."

While an ethics code is necessary for organizations like the GS to deal with discrimination, misconduct, and other issues, the Ethics Committee wanted to make the policy an aspirational guide that can help the society become a more inclusive forum for its current and potential members. Given that the GS has members in 70 countries, the committee drew on resources from many countries in order to make it as representative as possible of different perspectives on professional integrity. After more than a year of discussion and revisions, the committee finished its work in fall (autumn) 2018, and the GS board formally adopted the code in December 2018.

The code of ethics is available at: www.geochemsoc.org/about/membership/code-ethics. A document like this must necessarily evolve to stay relevant, so the society welcomes comments to gsoffice@geochemsoc.org.

MEETING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Geochemical Society's Meeting Assistance Program provides support for symposia or conferences related to geochemistry, and all GS members are eligible to apply. Sponsorships provide US\$2,000, and the society may award up to four per year. The GS Program Committee reviews applications twice a year; the next deadline is 31 March 2019. For more information, visit: tinyurl.com/GeoChemMAP.