



# Association of Applied Geochemists

[www.appliedgeochemists.org](http://www.appliedgeochemists.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I write this, my first president's message of 2019, and reflect upon the achievements of the past year, I'm pleased to say that it has been an active and fruitful one for the Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG). We held a successful 28<sup>th</sup> International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS) in Vancouver (British Columbia, Canada) as part of the wider Resources for Future Generations (RFG 2018) Conference, and we awarded the Gold and Silver Medals of the association

to three esteemed colleagues at our gala dinner at the Vancouver Aquarium. The many hours put into this by the AAG's local organizing committee, headed by Dr. Peter Winterburn (University of British Columbia), paid off with an excellent slate of technical sessions and short courses. Gold Medals for outstanding scientific contributions and achievement in applied geochemistry were awarded to Prof. Reijo Salminen of the Geological Survey of Finland (for 2016) and to Stuart Averill, founder of Overburden Drilling Management Ltd (for 2017). The 2016 Silver Medal was awarded to Dr. David Cohen of the University of New South Wales (Australia) for his long-standing and dedicated service to the AAG. A proposal for the next symposium to be held in Viña del Mar (Chile) in 2020 has been accepted by the AAG Council, and planning by the local organizing committee is well underway under the direction of Dr. Brian Townley. We have a new Editor-in-Chief this past year, Dr. Scott Wood, for our journal *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis (GEEA)*, and our association is on a solid financial footing. Both our website and our newsletter, *EXPLORE*, provide AAG information and technical articles at a high standard of content and presentation to geochemists and other geoscientists. We were also a cosponsor of the recent Australian Geoscience Council Convention in Adelaide (South Australia).

For all this, we can thank our council, our regional councilors, coordinators and committee chairs, the members of the IAGS local organizing committee for both 2018 and 2020, and indeed all of the members of the AAG for their solid support of their time and energies over the course of this and previous years. This is a fitting point to welcome, on behalf of the Executive Council and the entire AAG, those Fellows who will be joining AAG Council for the coming two-year term 2019–2020: John Carranza, Patrice de Caritat and Dave Heberlein. John and Patrice have both served on past councils, while Dave is a first-time councilor. As well, I am delighted to report that Renguang Zuo and Tom Meuzelaar will be continuing on from the 2017–2018 Council, serving their second consecutive 2-year terms. All five will join 2018–2019 Councilors Maurizio Barbieri, David Murphy, Graham Sylvester, Yulia Uvarova and Erick Weiland. I also want to extend my thanks to departing councilors David Cohen, Juan Carlos Ordonez Calderon and Ray Lett for their service and contributions to the association over the previous terms.

As the calendar turns to 2019, it is now time to think strategically of the future direction of the AAG, and how to position it for continuing success and growth in the coming years. Two of my objectives as president are to increase our membership and to expand our level of educational research support for the next generation of geochemists. The success of the two will be closely related. The membership of the AAG stood at 396 in late 2018, including 131 fellows, 246 regular members and 18 students. This includes 26 new members (17 regular members and 9 students), although our total membership is down slightly from the 403 in 2017. Over the coming months, we will be devising and implementing action plans to increase our membership, transition eligible current members to fellow status and, very importantly, increase our levels of student sponsorship and educational support. In the latter

case, this will enable us to both further geochemical research and to help develop the next generation of geochemical leaders. Our cosponsorship of the upcoming "Mineral Systems of the Pacific Rim" (PACRIM) conference in New Zealand in April 2019, for example, will include support for the travel of some AAG members to Auckland to present research results and to attend short courses on applied geochemistry.

**Stephen Cook**  
AAG President

## 29<sup>th</sup> IAGS AT VIÑA DEL MAR (CHILE)

The International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS) is the AAG biennial symposium on applied geochemistry for professionals from industry, government departments, and academia. It provides opportunities to exchange ideas and advances related to the use of geochemistry in the mineral resources field and to geochemical analytical methods and environmental geochemistry, among other applied areas. The AAG Council has unanimously approved Viña del Mar (Chile) as the venue for the 29<sup>th</sup> IAGS, to be held in 2020.

The city of Viña del Mar, in central Chile, is located 120 km north-west of the capital city of Chile, Santiago. It is a well-known tourist destination, famous for its beaches, the neighbouring world heritage city of Valparaíso and abundant parks. The city lies west of the coastal cordillera in which wineries thrive among the valleys, together with other productive activities that include gold and base-metal mining. The location of Viña del Mar is easy to access and represents a great starting point for pre- and post-symposium activities, including field trips and social or tourist activities.



Pre- and post-symposium activities will include field trips to the ore deposits and mines of northern Chile (Antofagasta region), of north central Chile (Atacama and Coquimbo regions) and of central Chile (Valparaíso to O'Higgins regions); to wineries of central Chile; and trips that will explore the tectonic and magmatic evolution of the Andes along an east–west transect through the Aconcagua Valley, from Chile to Argentina, among other possibilities. Short courses on different topics of applied geochemistry will be offered, including exploration in areas of transported overburden; geology, geochemistry and wine; and environmental geochemistry and tailings. The coastal region of Chile is highly touristic, with plenty of activities available for the social and accompanying persons programs.

**Brian Townley**  
Chair, 29<sup>th</sup> IAGS Local Organizing Committee