



### GS BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPEN POSITIONS

The Nominations Committee of the Geochemical Society (GS) is seeking nominees for open board seats with terms beginning in January 2021. The potential nominees should have established reputations of leadership in geochemistry and be willing to devote considerable time and effort to the work of the society. Suggestions should be communicated by 15 July 2020 to any member of the Nominations Committee or to the GS business office at [gsoffice@geochemsoc.org](mailto:gsoffice@geochemsoc.org). More information regarding the duties and responsibilities of board positions can be found at [www.geochemsoc.org/about/governance](http://www.geochemsoc.org/about/governance).

### 2020 GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY AWARDS

This year's award recipients were invited to give lectures at the virtual Goldschmidt Conference and will also be recognized in person next year.

#### V.M. Goldschmidt Award



**Richard W. Carlson**, Director of the Earth & Planets Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution for Science (Washington DC, USA) received the 2020 V.M. Goldschmidt Award. The Goldschmidt Award recognizes major achievements in geochemistry or cosmochemistry consisting of either a single outstanding contribution or a series of publications that have had great influence on the field. Dr. Carlson is recognized for fundamental contributions establishing the age of the lunar crust, the difference in Nd isotopic abundances between chondrites and Earth, and the unravelling of Earth's earliest history.

Victor Moritz Goldschmidt (1888–1947) was a chemist considered to be the founder of modern geochemistry and crystal chemistry. He developed the Goldschmidt classification of elements and worked for many years at the University of Oslo (Norway). The society has presented a medal in his honor since 1972.

#### Claire C. Patterson Award



**Naohiro Yoshida**, Professor of Geochemistry and Principal Investigator of Earth-Life Science Institute at Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan), received the 2020 Claire C. Patterson Award. This award recognizes an innovative breakthrough of fundamental significance in environmental geochemistry, particularly

in service of society, consisting of either a single outstanding contribution or a short series of papers published within the last decade. Prof. Yoshida is recognized for the development and application of isotopic measurements for biogeochemical studies of oceans, atmospheres, and bio-element cycling. He has developed many new techniques and has been a leader in developing global collaborations on environmental measurements.

Clair C. Patterson (1922–1995) developed the uranium–lead dating method. Using lead and uranium isotopic data from the Canyon Diablo meteorite, he calculated an age for the Earth of 4.55 billion years. This figure was far more accurate than those that existed at the time, and it has remained unchanged for over 50 years. Patterson also made enormous contributions to the understanding of lead's role as an environmental contaminant and to its subsequent elimination from many products.

#### F.W. Clarke Award



**Daniel Stolper**, Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley (USA), received the 2020 F.W. Clarke Award, which recognizes an early career scientist for a single outstanding contribution to geochemistry or cosmochemistry published either as a single paper or a series of papers on a single topic. Dr. Stolper is recognized

for his work on the use of clumped isotopes of carbon and hydrogen to determine the formation temperature of natural methane, and for insights into the geologic history of atmospheric and marine oxygen content.

Frank Wigglesworth Clarke (1847–1931) was a chemist who determined the composition of the Earth's crust. He taught chemistry and physics at the University of Cincinnati (Ohio, USA) and served in the U.S. Geological Survey for many years. He also collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution on atomic weight research. The society established the award in his name in 1972.

#### Distinguished Service Award



**Sam Savin**, the retired Provost of the New College of Florida (USA) will receive the Geochemical Society's Distinguished Service Award for 2020. Dr. Savin is recognized for his service as treasurer of the society from 2011 to 2019. During his tenure, the society increased its reserve fund, moved to a fully electronic accounting system, and consistently received clean audit opinions. Dr. Savin also oversaw a shift toward socially responsible investing

for the society's reserves. Before his election as treasurer, he served for three years as a director.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes outstanding service to the GS and/or the geochemical community that greatly exceeds the normal expectations of voluntary service.

### COLLABORATION IN A TIME OF QUARANTINE

The GS exists to foster communication and cooperation among geochemists in every part of the world. Much of this work takes place via conferences, workshops, and other physical gatherings of our members. With the global shutdown on travel and large gatherings, all of us have to think differently about how we collaborate at a distance.

The society's largest program, the Goldschmidt Conference (organized jointly with the European Association of Geochemistry) has shifted to an entirely online meeting. This required creativity and adaptability on the part of the organizing committees, session conveners, conference staff, and participants. Additionally, there are several other ways to keep in touch during these challenging times:

- Read *Elements!* Members have access to the entire back catalog of the magazine online. Past issues are great teaching resources as you plan your curriculum for the next term.
- Read *Geochemical News*. The weekly e-mail newsletter gives you a quick snapshot of exciting discoveries, job openings, and more.
- Nominate a colleague for an award. Celebrating the achievements of colleagues and mentors is more important than ever. The GS has awards for scientists at all stages of their careers.

Find more information at [www.geochemsoc.org/about/membership/online-resources](http://www.geochemsoc.org/about/membership/online-resources).