



International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

IAG YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDS

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 International Association of Geoanalysts (IAG) Young Scientist Award, which recognizes innovative work by current or recent graduates as reported in the scientific literature. The winners of this year's award are Jie Lin from the China University of Geosciences (Wuhan, China) and Michael Weber from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz (Germany). Their profiles now follow.



Dr. Jie Lin

Jie devoted her PhD research to lithium isotope ratio determinations on geomaterials, using advanced laser ablation MC-ICP-MS measurement strategies and devising better strategies for suppressing lithium memory effects. Of particular interest to the IAG was her work on developing new carbonate reference materials to increase the quality of $\delta^7\text{Li}$ data.



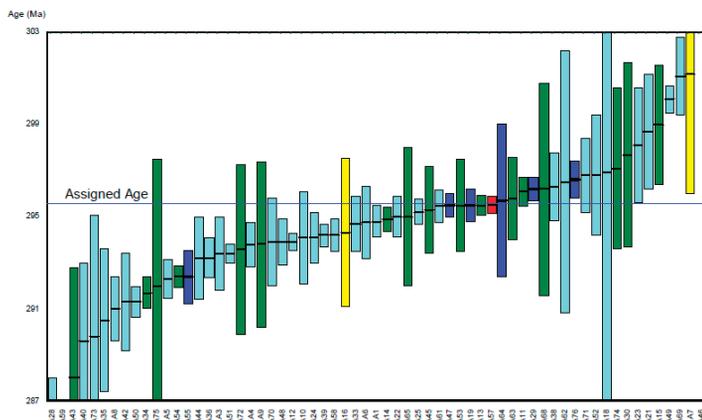
Dr. Michael Weber

Michael devoted much of his PhD work to Sr isotope ratio determinations, using laser ablation for better quality in situ data. One of his major achievements has been the characterization of a synthetic carbonate reference material with low strontium abundance. He has also conducted extensive paleoclimate research, including U-Th dating and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ determinations on speleothems.

Nominations for the 2021 Young Scientist Award must be submitted no later than 31 October 2020. Senior scientists from industry or from research or academic institutions are invited to visit <http://www.geoanalyst.org/young-scientist-award/> for further information about the nominating process.

THE G-CHRON AGE-DATING PROFICIENCY TEST: ROUND 1

In September 2019, the IAG launched its newest proficiency testing scheme, G-Chron. This scheme provides participating laboratories the opportunity to test the quality of their U-Pb geochronology data. In September 2019, an ~100 mg vial of the Rak-17 zircon was sent to the 74 participating laboratories from 17 countries. This millimeter-sized material had previously been dated by seven of the world's leading isotope dilution thermal ionization mass spectrometry laboratories, and from those data a $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ target age of 295.56 ± 0.21 Ma was defined. A total of 63 laboratories reported results by the 15 December 2019 deadline, and in early April 2020 the full performance report was sent to all participants. This report will be released later this year to the web site <http://www.geoanalyst.org/g-chron/>.



Due to the delays imposed by the global shut-down, it is not expected that the intended September 2020 launch for Round 2 will be possible. The G-Chron organizers are striving to dispatch the next materials before the end of this year. For further updates about G-Chron, as well as the IAG's two other proficiency testing schemes (G-Probe and GeoPT), please check the geoanalyst.org web site.

OBITUARY: STAN GREENFIELD (1920–2019)



Prof. Stan Greenfield (right) receiving his Honorary Lifetime Membership from then IAG President Phil Potts at the IAG-sponsored young scientist meeting held at the British Geological Survey on 30 March 2004.

While working as an industrial chemist in the early 1960s, Stan Greenfield and his colleagues were struggling with spectral interferences that were degrading their flame photometry results. Stan realized that a high-temperature plasma source offered advantages and, in 1964, he demonstrated the use of an induction coil plasma generation system that was similar in design to systems previously developed for crystal synthesis work. Ultimately, he went on to design a plasma emission source for spectrographic applications. Of course, it was this pioneering work that led to today's inductively coupled plasma ion source, which, in conjunction with a variety of mass spectrometer designs, has become a cornerstone of modern analytical geochemistry. It was because of his key contribution to analytical geochemistry that the International Association of Geoanalysts awarded Prof. Greenfield the prestigious Honorary Lifetime Membership award, the first time that this honor was bestowed. Today, we are sad to report Stan's passing, but we also wish to celebrate his full and productive life and acknowledge the vital contributions that he made to modern geochemistry.

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NOTICE ABOUT PT SCHEMES

The International Association of Geoanalysts operates three different Proficiency Testing Programmes. Sample distributions to participating laboratories are being affected by the global pandemic. The IAG continues working to progress these efforts, and participating laboratories will be kept informed as these return to normal operation.