



# Association of Applied Geochemists

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## MESSAGE FROM AAG PRESIDENT DENNIS ARNE



The start of 2021 brings us five council members to the Association of Applied Geochemists, each of whom will serve two-year terms from 2021 to the end of 2022. They are as follows:

Patrice de Caritat (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Dave Heberlein (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Ryan Noble (1<sup>st</sup> term), Pim van Geffen (1<sup>st</sup> term), Paul Morris (1<sup>st</sup> term).

I would like to thank Patrice and Dave for standing for another two-year term, and Ryan, Pim, and Paul for agreeing to serve on council. For Ryan and Paul this will be their second time around, as well as having served as past presidents. The important work of running the AAG is done by council and its various committees. I would encourage Fellows to stand for nomination for the period 2022–2023, and Ordinary Members to upgrade to Fellow status so that they can stand for council and help determine the future direction of the AAG.

I would also like to congratulate Dr Robert (Bob) Garrett for being awarded an Honorary Fellowship: this followed a formal nomination by his peers, approval by the Awards and Medals Committee, and ratification by council. Bob is only the eighth AAG member to ever receive such an honour, and he joins Gwendy Hall as the only other current Honorary Fellow. Both are deserving recipients for their long service to our profession.

It is also my pleasure to congratulate Professor Cheng Qiuming as recipient of the AAG Gold Medal for 2020. Qiuming is the founding director of the State Key Lab of Geological Processes and Mineral Resources at the China University of Geosciences (Beijing). The Gold Medal is awarded for outstanding scientific contributions and achievements in applied geochemistry.

The AAG and the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG) have formally signed a memorandum of understanding between the two societies to foster cooperation. There is already some cross membership between the two societies and there is much to be gained through further interaction. One benefit is that each society can contribute to each other's newsletters, so if any AAG members have suitable content please contact the editor, Katherine Silversides, at [newsletter@iamg.org](mailto:newsletter@iamg.org). Thanks goes to John Carranza for pushing this along.

In other news, the Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits (SGA) has announced the postponement of their 16<sup>th</sup> biennial meeting in Rotorua (New Zealand) from November 2021 to a new date of 28–31 March 2022. The AAG is a co-host of the conference and has agreed to sponsor an exploration geochemistry workshop (Wahid Salama is the coordinator) and a session on spatial data analysis for mineral exploration (Dr Arianne Ford and Dr John Carranza are the co-convenors). We hope that international travel restrictions to New Zealand will have eased sufficiently by then for the conference to be well attended.

We have also submitted a proposal to the Australasian Exploration Geoscience Conference (AEGC) to conduct a two-day short course in exploration geochemistry at their conference in Brisbane in September 2021. As the conference is of local interest, and there is potential for a travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand later this year, we hope that this conference may proceed with a live venue and that the AAG will have several members there to contribute to the short course.

Which brings me to the International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS) scheduled for later in 2021. The local organizing committee, under the guidance of Brian Townley, has been keeping a close eye on the roll-out of vaccines in Chile. Vaccines are well advanced on a

global scale, but there are concerns that international travel restrictions, not to mention budgetary constraints, will limit attendees in person. For these reasons, we are planning a hybrid model for the conference that would allow participants to join live sessions online. This is likely to be a model going forward for future symposia, given the advances in both the technology and our recent acclimatization to its use. The local organizing committee has further suggested that we consider postponing the IAGS for another year, instead holding it in October 2022 to ensure that as many people as possible can attend. The AAG Executive are in favour of this suggestion and council will discuss this at their March meeting. A formal announcement will be made in due course.

## OBITUARY FOR EDWARD (“ED”) DRONSEIKA (1953–2021)

Exploration geochemistry has lost a real character with the death of Ed Dronseika on February 24 in Perth (Australia) [All locations herein are Australia unless otherwise stated]. Ed was a great enthusiast in all that he did. He was a passionate geochemist and a lateral thinker who often had a refreshingly different and interesting perspective on topics. He was inquisitive and never afraid to ask questions – many of us will recall being held to account by Ed if we were not able to fully explain our theories.



He was a pioneer in commercial laboratory partial digest methods, and he became a world-leader in this field. His success was due to his quest to understand the mechanisms by which processes happen and his willingness to experiment, adapt, and continually learn.

Ed was born in Melbourne and studied geology at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in the early 1970s. He worked as both a mine and exploration geologist in what is now Zimbabwe and Namibia in the late 1970s before returning to Australia to work for a decade on the west coast of Tasmania. He worked on tin at the Cleveland Mine, and then with Aberfoyle Ltd on the polymetallic volcanogenic massive sulfide deposit of Que River. He spent most of the 1990s in Queensland working for Aberfoyle Exploration, first at Charters Towers and then in Townsville. Ed was responsible for exploration in the Mt Isa region, where he discovered several new prospects.

In 1998, he started specialising in the emerging field of partial digest geochemistry to create cost-effective methods for exploration under cover. After consulting with Terraresearch Ltd in Townsville on these methods, he was recruited by Genalysis Laboratory Services (now Intertek Genalysis) in Perth to work with Chief Chemist Ann Evers to set up what has become the successful and well-known suite of TerraLeach™ partial digests.

Ed continued to improve his methods and their applications in exploration by working closely with his many clients at Intertek Genalysis, with considerable success in several parts of Australia and Africa in particular. He built a close-knit team in the Partials Lab at Intertek Genalysis, and it is hoped that his work will continue in the capable hands of Irene Patchett, his second-in-command, who has kept the “show on the road” during Ed's recent period of illness.

Ed was a vibrant, multi-skilled person and knowledgeable on many topics, including wine. He was a regular at geology and geochemistry events and was generally a great bloke and lots of fun to socialise with.

The geology and geochemistry community extends their condolences to Ed's family, especially his wife Elizabeth, son Anton, and daughter Kate.

Please raise a glass (or two) to the one and only Ed Dronseika. He will be missed by all.

**Helen Waldron and Ann Evers**