



The Clay Minerals Society

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



My year-long presidency of the Clay Minerals Society (CMS) is soon coming to an end. By the time you read this President's Corner, Jeffery A. Greathouse (Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico, USA) will be our next president. Looking back over the past year, I am reminded that it was essentially driven by the question, "How can we cope with the pandemic?"

We have all been dealing with this pressing question from personal and professional points of view, trying to minimize the overlap between these two "lives". This could be quite challenging when mostly working from home and/or under lockdown and travel restrictions that minimized social interactions down to a shrunken core of close relatives. In many countries, the availability of various vaccine solutions now offers the prospect of a "back-to-normal" life. Such normalization is especially welcome in terms of increased socialization, face-to-face exchanges, discussions, or even scientific arguments. Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic has also offered a fantastic opportunity to escape from our usual routines and to reinvent ways to collaborate and interact. There may be limitations, to be sure, but these alternatives may release some constraints on time and travel and allow for faster and more efficient interactions, especially within existing collaborations and/or for small group meetings.

For learned societies, the pandemic has also been a time to reinvent their relationship with their members. This had largely been achieved by broadening what societies can offer using available technology and a worldwide access to the Internet. Remote attendance of conferences offers a cheap and more eco-friendly access to current scientific developments and knowledge. Remote access also means that developing countries have better access to scientific developments where previously there was insufficient funding or travel restrictions to attend regular conferences. Logically, diversification of our activities should aim to include more e-communication to enable remote attendance to conferences, webinar series, and a stronger presence on social media. In 2021, the CMS annual meeting will be organized as an on-line workshop entitled Clay Minerals in Healthcare Applications. Details are available at <https://www.clays.org/2021-meeting-2/>.

In all cases, the primary driving force for a society's vitality and activity is that of its members, and I hope the information regularly published in these pages will incite you to start, renew, or maintain your membership in the Clay Minerals Society. Before leaving the president's gavel to Jeffery, I would also like to thank all members of the various CMS committees who tirelessly devote their time and expertise on behalf of the society. Special thanks are due to two members of the CMS Executive Committee who are stepping down from their long-term commitments: Secretary Warren Huff, who had been in that role for 15 years and is one of the very few members who joined the CMS at its official creation in 1963; and Treasurer Paul Schroeder who has served in that role for the last 6 years after acting as president (2010–2011).

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VIRTUAL CMS MEETING FOR 2021

Our annual meeting, the International Clay Conference, which in 2021 was to have been in collaboration with colleagues in Turkey, has been postponed to 2022. Thus, in the interim, we have decided to hold a two-day virtual workshop: the **International Workshop on Clay Minerals in Healthcare Applications**. The workshop will be based on the two special issues of *Clays and Clay Minerals* entitled "Clay Minerals in Health Applications" and "Clay Minerals in Healthcare", which are to be published in 2021, and the workshop will also incorporate contributions by colleagues from the Qing Yang Institute for

Industrial Minerals (China). Sessions will be organized by Eduardo Ruiz-Hitzky (of the Materials Science Institute, Madrid, Spain) and Chun Hui Zhou (of the Qing Yang Institute).

Speakers confirmed so far, and their talk themes, include:

- Lynda Williams and colleagues: Evaluating in vivo applications of a natural antibacterial clay to wound infection
- Pilar Aranda, Ruiz-Hitzky and colleagues: Clay-based bionanocomposite films for wound dressing applications
- Bernard Lopez and colleagues: Response of mammalian cells to interaction with sepiolite
- Giora Rytwo and colleagues: Health protection using clay minerals: a case study based on the removal of BPA and BPS from water
- Yuri Lvov: Halloysite nanotube vehicles for drug delivery through brain endothelial barrier.
- Rawil Fakhruddin and colleagues: Self-assembly of halloysite nanoclay for hair surface engineering
- Ana Alcântara and Vera Constantino: Layered clays as versatile nanodevices to drug delivery systems
- César Viseras and Alberto Galindo and colleagues: Clays in cosmetics and personal care products

There is no registration charge for members of the Clay Minerals Society, but non-members will be asked to pay a modest fee.

DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE OF CLAYS AND CLAY MINERALS

"Laterite as a potential seepage barrier from a karst-depression tailings impoundment" – Hai-Yan Gao, Ze-Min Xu, Zhe Ren, Kun Wang, Kui Yang, Yong-Jun Tang & Jun-Yao Luo

"Genesis of palygorskite in the Neogene Baiyanghe Formation in Yangtaiwan basin, northwest China, based on the mineralogical characteristics and occurrence of enriched trace elements and REE" – Shuai Zhang, Lihui Liu, Qinfu Liu, Bingjie Zhang, Zhichuan Qiao & Brian J. Teppen

"Automated full-pattern summation of X-ray powder diffraction data for high-throughput quantification of clay-bearing mixtures" – Benjamin M. Butler and Stephen Hillier

"Clay mineralogy of surface sediments in the Three Gorges Reservoir: implications for sediment provenances and weathering regimes" – Shuai Wang, Wenbo Rao, Jin Qian, Mengying He, Changping Mao, Kun Li, Yuexing Feng, and Jianxin Zhao

"Mineralogy, geochemistry, and genesis of kaolinitic claystone deposits in the Datong coalfield, Northern China" – Linsong Liu, Qinfu Liu, Thomas Algeo, Hao Zhang, Yongjie Yang, Gaoyu Peng, Shuai Zhang, Hanlie Hong & Di Liu

"Preparation and characterization of halloysite-based carriers for quercetin loading and release" – Shu-Ting Liu, Xue-Gang Chen, Shi-Long Zhang, Xue-Min Liu, and Jun-Ji Zhang

"Developing an efficient catalyst based on thermal and acid-treated clay for the removal of trace olefins from aromatic compounds" – Nooshin Nouri, Mahboubeh Tasviri, and Hossein Ghaseemzadeh

"Functionalized halloysite nanotubes for enhanced removal of Hg²⁺ ions from aqueous solutions" – Salvatore Cataldo, Francesco Crea, Marina Massaro, Demetrio Milea, Alberto Pettignano, and Serena RIELA

"Optimization of hydrogen generation by catalytic hydrolysis of NaBH₄ with halloysite-supported CoB catalyst using response surface methodology" – Seda Hosgun, Mine Ozdemir, and Yeliz Buruk Sahin

"Fabrication of anthocyanin/montmorillonite hybrid pigments to enhance their environmental stability and application in allochroic composite films" – Shu E. Li, B. Mu, Jun J. Ding, H. Zhang, Xiao W. Wang & Ai Q. Wang

"In Memoriam: Peter Komadel"

Go to <https://link.springer.com/journal/42860/volumes-and-issues> to see the latest issues.