

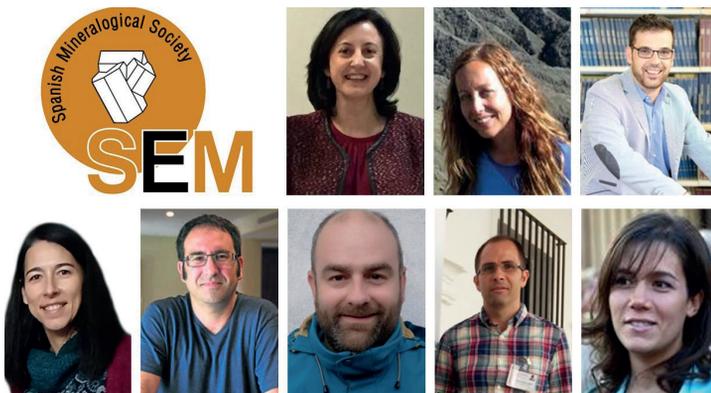


Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

www.ehu.es/sem

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) elections took place at the last General Assembly, which was held October 2020 as an on-line event. We elected a new secretary, a new vice-secretary, and five councillors, all of whom will serve a four-year term on the executive council. The new council members are as follows (all institutions are in Spain): Nuria Sanchez Pastor (University Complutense of Madrid, secretary); Dídac Navarro Ciurana (University of Barcelona and Autonomous University of Barcelona, vice-secretary); and councillors Cinta Barba Brioso (University of Seville); Jose María González Jiménez (University of Granada); Juan Morales Sanchez-Migallón (University of Salamanca); Rafael Pérez López (University of Huelva); and Encarnación Ruiz Agudo (University of Granada). On behalf of our members, I would like to thank all the outgoing councillors who served the society with such great efficiency and enthusiasm.



TOP: (LEFT TO RIGHT): Blanca Bauluz Lázaro (University of Zaragoza, SEM President), Nuria Sanchez Pastor (University Complutense of Madrid, secretary), Dídac Navarro Ciurana (University of Barcelona and Autonomous University of Barcelona, vice-secretary). **BOTTOM: (LEFT TO RIGHT):** councillors Cinta Barba Brioso (University of Seville), Jose María González Jiménez (University of Granada), Juan Morales Sanchez-Migallón (University of Salamanca), Rafael Pérez López (University of Huelva), and Encarnación Ruiz Agudo (University of Granada)

The SEM was created in 1975 by a group of crystallography and mineralogy scientists. The society has a long tradition of supporting initiatives that promote knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, and related sciences, as well as training teachers and researchers in these disciplines. Today, the society is in good shape, with a stable number of members at around 300. Moreover, the number of student members is increasing year after year. The SEM must remain young and dynamic. We have begun planning for the future and would like to focus our efforts on three core issues: 1) to increase international collaboration between academics and industry, and to increase collaboration among our own society members; 2) to improve SEM's response to the needs of young mineralogists; and 3) to make society at large more aware of the importance of mineralogy. Every year the SEM announces grants to promote the dissemination of mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry in primary and secondary schools and in wider society. We also give awards to MSc projects and to presentations by young researchers at conferences to show that we value their investigations.

Blanca Bauluz
SEM President

THE 2nd YOUNG RESEARCHERS CONFERENCE OF THE SPANISH MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY (SEM)

Organized by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and the SEM-CAT students association, the 2nd Young Researchers Conference of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) was held 22–24 March 2021 as an on-line event. The main objective was to hold student scientific sessions that would become platforms for debate and a means for exchanging ideas. The program included three sessions: 1) Mineral Resources; 2) Heritage, Environment and Water–Rock Interaction; 3) Crystal Growth, Mineralogy and Petrology. The abstracts can be downloaded from the SEM website (<http://www.semineral.es/websem/>).

Oral Presentations

In all, nearly 160 scientists were involved in 30 oral presentations, which were conducted by undergraduate, MSc, and PhD students from Spanish universities and research institutions. Contributions included topics on experimental mineralogy, descriptive petrology, interpretation of geochemical data, new mineral deposits, conservation of historical heritage, water and soil contamination, geochemical numerical simulations, synthesis and crystal growth, and the significance of clay minerals.

The program also included three invited lectures: “Mineralogy, Composition and Formation Mechanisms of Ni-Phyllosilicates in Nickeliferous Laterites (Ni-Serpentine and Garnierites): EMP, MET and Raman Spectroscopy” given by Cristina Villanova de Benavent (University of Barcelona, Spain); “Mining Waste: A Potential Ceramic Resource” given by Francisco Veiga Simão (University of Leuven, Belgium); and “The Potential of Thin Sections in the Microstructural Studies of Ceramic Glazes” given by Roberta Di Febo (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain). All these scientific contributions have been published in volume 25 of *Macla*, which is edited by the SEM.

Awards for Young Researchers

Three awards were given to the best oral presentations of the conference. The winners were as follows: 1) Marta Henrich Griño and Aleix Saiz Alexandre (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain) for their talk “Characterization and Genesis of the Balcoll Mineralization (Priorat, Catalunya): Outreach Proposal”; 2) Claudia Prieto Torrell (University of Barcelona) for her talk “Ankaramitic Lavas from El Hierro Island: Insights from Petrography”; 3) Elisa Laita (University of Zaragoza) for her talk “Mineral and Textural Transformations during Firing of Bauxitic Materials and their Relationship with Interesting Physical Properties”.

The organizing committee would like to thank all participants for this fruitful and excellent meeting. We are already looking forward to the 3rd European Mineralogical Conference (emc²⁰²¹), which was postponed in 2020 due to the global situation with the coronavirus (COVID-19). The newly proposed date is 29 August–2 September 2021.

Dídac Navarro Ciurana and Mercé Corbella
Organizing and Scientific Committee
(Autonomous University of Barcelona)