



www.eag.eu.com

European Association for Geochemistry

FROM THE INCOMING EAG PRESIDENT

Geochemistry on the Move



Alex Halliday,
EAG President

Dear colleagues,

First, I have to say a big 'thank you' to the convenors and organisers of the Melbourne Goldschmidt. It was a great meeting, and the venue and professional approach taken to the conference organisation made a noticeable difference. The geochemistry community worldwide is indebted.

It is with a sense of some excitement that I am taking over from Bruce Yardley as president. Bruce has left the European Association for Geochemistry (EAG) in a much stronger position

than when he first started the job two years ago, and we have a great team of enthusiastic, talented, hardworking and committed individuals ready to take things forward into the future.

The new EAG Council represents a broad spectrum of top geochemistry expertise. Not all of the team members are new. Eric Oelkers is stepping down as secretary to become vice-president; Susan Stipp, member of Council, will become secretary; and Catherine Chauvel is still treasurer. We have some new councillors, namely Chris Ballentine, who has been co-opted as the primary convenor of the 2009 Goldschmidt Conference in Davos, Bernard Bourdon, Lara Duro, Mike Walter and Bernard Wehrli.

With a significant number of organisational changes being made to EAG, Council will be meeting about three times a year for the foreseeable future. This is a significant step up in activity. The new members of the team are already busy at work.

EAG is your Society

But EAG is not about us, it is about *you*. EAG is *your* society. Unlike the case in many research institutions, there is no 'top down' science strategy. EAG is about allowing scientists to communicate, explore, discuss and give credit to science across the gamut of geochemistry, from stars to life. Our role is to provide the best vehicles for doing this, with the specific needs of Europe-based scientists in mind.

EAG in a Global Partnership

We have a fantastic partner in this endeavour: the Geochemical Society (GS) and the EAG have long worked together to provide the necessary forum for the exchange of ideas and to plan joint ventures. This goes beyond collaboration. EAG and GS benefit greatly from the considerable expertise that they can offer each other in how to organise different facets of a strong society. The invaluable help being provided to EAG by Seth Davis, GS business manager, is of course a good example.

The Goldschmidt Forum

This excellent partnership needs to be maintained if we are to tackle the important issues that face professional development in our field on the global scale. At every Goldschmidt Conference, the presidents and vice-presidents of EAG and GS (collectively the Goldschmidt Forum) get together to discuss issues of joint concern. Three recurrent problems with broad implications are membership, finances and organisation of Goldschmidt Conferences. Although each society is responsible for its own distinctive aspects, there is no question we will be able to provide a lot of support and help to each other as things move forward.

The EAG Website

EAG has plenty of its own ideas about special projects that it wants to undertake. The new website (<http://www.eag.eu.com/>), established by Eric Oelkers and colleagues, is a step in the right direction. We plan to add lots of information relevant to European geochemists over the coming year. Feel free to get in touch with Eric Oelkers about aspects you would like to see developed. It is *your* website.

Important Changes to the Organisation

As EAG takes on additional tasks and attempts to achieve more for science, it has to streamline its activities and build a broader organisational base. Up until now the number of officers has been fewer than in the GS for example, which means that the range of work they each undertake is significantly greater. We need to change this as a matter of priority. As a consequence we are setting up new committees, and some of the work that was previously handled by the executive officers will be turned over to others. Details are presented below.

EAG Innovation Award

We will soon be introducing a new honour – the EAG Innovation Award. This prestigious medal will be bestowed on individuals who have had a dramatic impact on the landscape of geochemistry as a result of a particularly innovative breakthrough. The subject area of the award will rotate each year. It is expected that one or two medals will go yearly to established scientists at the mid-career (35 to 55 years old say) level, and as such, it will fill a gap in our current awards.

Goldschmidt in Cologne – Be There, and Bring your Students

The 2007 Goldschmidt Conference (<http://www.goldschmidt2007.org>) will be held in Cologne, Germany, on 19–24 August. Goldschmidt Conferences have become the key meetings for communicating ideas across a wide spectrum of geochemistry. This meeting is expected to be one of the biggest to date, and the organisers have worked hard to make it as affordable as possible so that students in particular will be able to participate fully. Please make it a priority to be there; the great success of this annual conference is dependent on your attendance. The organisers have identified an impressive range of 16 science themes from which symposia will be developed. Feel free to contact the organisers to get your session considered for inclusion in the program.

A Final 'Thank You'

Much more is developing within EAG, and in the next issue of *Elements* we will bring you up to date on some of these aspects. In closing, however, I will mention briefly our great appreciation for members of EAG who have helped with its organisation. This is particularly important because EAG has not been easy to run, partly because, unlike many other societies, it does not have a steady income stream. We intend to change that, but we are particularly grateful to those who have kept it going under difficult circumstances. If you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to get in touch. It will be exciting and rewarding.

In the meantime I would like to thank Terry Seward (past president), Bruce Yardley (president), Eric Oelkers (secretary) and four councillors, Sigurdur Gislason, Graham Pearson, Susan Stipp and Gerhard Woerner, all of whom are stepping down. We really appreciate their efforts on behalf of the Society and on behalf of geochemistry worldwide.

Alex N. Halliday, President

EAG NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EAG Announces the Re-launch of its Website

As mentioned by Alex Halliday, the EAG website has been completely reformatted, with easy-to-use menus, regular updates and new features to better serve the scientific community. We invite everyone to visit it regularly at www.eag.eu.com.

EAG Council Meeting Highlights

The EAG Council held its fall meeting at University College in London, November 5–6, 2006. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

It was approved to hold the 2009 V.M. Goldschmidt Conference in Davos, Switzerland. Davos is an ideal site because of its central and dramatic location, the availability of a conference centre able to accommodate at least 2000 participants and the availability of over 90,000 hotel rooms at discounted prices during the summer months. The organisation of the conference will be led by Chris Ballentine of the University of Manchester, who will head the scientific steering committee, Judith McKenzie of the ETH, who will head the local organising committee, and Eric Oelkers of the CNRS Toulouse, who will, as EAG vice-president, oversee financial and administrative details.

An extensive revision of the EAG by-laws was discussed and implemented. The new by-laws include the creation of five new EAG committees:

- The EAG Communications Committee, chaired by Michael Walter. This committee's responsibilities include maintaining and developing content for the EAG web pages; soliciting, editing and submitting contributions to *Elements*; and promoting EAG and its activities through representation at conferences.
- The EAG Program Committee, chaired by Bernard Bourdon. Responsibilities of this committee include soliciting and proposing special sessions for the annual European Geosciences Union (EGU) and other appropriate meetings, and providing a regularly updated list of all future meetings of potential interest to European geochemists for inclusion on the EAG web page.
- The EAG Publications Committee, chaired by Philippe Van Cappellen. This committee will serve as a liaison between the EAG and Elsevier, the publisher of *Chemical Geology*; explore/implement agreements between EAG and other journals/publishers; and explore/implement special publications sponsored by the EAG.
- The EAG Nominations Committee, chaired by Bernhard Wehrli. The main role of this committee is to nominate future officers and councilors of the EAG.
- The EAG Audit Committee, chaired by Terry Seward, will oversee the EAG financial accounts as run by the treasurer.

These committees complement existing committees of the EAG: the joint EAG–GS Geochemical Fellows Committee; the Urey Medal Committee, headed by the current



From left to right: Catherine Chauvel (EAG Treasurer), Bruce Yardley (Past President), Eric Oelkers (Vice President) and Susan Stipp (Secretary) discussing the revised by-laws during a break at the November Council meeting

vice-president, Eric Oelkers; and the Houtermans Medal Committee, headed by EAG past president, Bruce Yardley.

The EAG Council approved the creation of a series of EAG innovation awards to recognize contributions made by scientists in mid-career during the past 10–15 years. The awards will be made for a coherent set of papers that together constitute an innovative advance in the field. One or two awards are to be given each year in different fields on a rotating basis. Field in which awards will be made are currently: (1) low-temperature geochemistry/surface chemistry; (2) climate, oceans, and global cycles; (3) isotope geochemistry; (4) mineral physics; and (5) biogeochemistry. The choice of fields will evolve with the field of geochemistry.

Further details on the EAG Council meeting, including its minutes, can be found on the EAG website: www.eag.eu.com.



THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR GEOCHEMISTRY INVITES YOU ALL TO

GOLDSCHMIDT 2007

"Atoms to Planets"

The 2007 Goldschmidt Conference will be held in Cologne, Germany, on August 19–24, 2007. The Goldschmidt Conference is the premier annual meeting in geochemistry and mineralogy. In addition to its usual sponsors, the European Association for Geochemistry and the Geochemical Society, the Cologne meeting is co-sponsored by the German Mineralogical Society. This meeting will cover the full range of geochemistry, from cosmochemistry to mineralogy and the origin of life. Sessions are planned on the following themes:

- Analytical Geochemistry
- Atmospheres and Oceans (including Climate Change)
- Biogeochemistry and Geomicrobiology
- Computational Geochemistry

- Cosmochemistry
- Crystal Chemistry and Crystallography
- Environmental Geochemistry and Mineralogy
- Experimental Geochemistry and Mineralogy
- Fluid–Rock Interaction
- Geochemistry and Mineralogy of Surfaces
- Igneous Petrology
- Isotope Geochemistry and Geochronology
- Metamorphic Petrology
- Mineral Deposits and Economic Geology
- Mineralogy
- Organic Geochemistry
- Planetary Geochemistry
- Sedimentary Geochemistry

Cologne has just over one million inhabitants and is the fourth-largest city in Germany. Founded by the Romans, Cologne is the oldest of the major German cities and is still characterized by its 2000 years of history. The metropolis on the Rhine annually attracts many millions of visitors.

To get further information on the 2007 Goldschmidt Conference, please visit the website

www.the-conference.com/gold2007