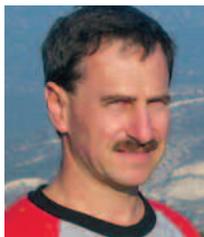




www.appliedgeochemists.org

## Association of Applied Geochemists



David Cohen

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

With 2008 looming, I look forward to taking over from Rob Bowell as president of the Association of Applied Geochemists for the period 2008–2009. I thank Rob and the Council for their great work over the last two years.

What is the state-of-play for applied geochemistry disciplines? At the recent Exploration 2007 conference we reflected on advances in exploration geochemistry over the last decade and challenges for the decade to come. There have been important developments in both the theory and practice of exploration and environmental geochemistry, boosted by advances in analytical methods. The generation of a series of high-quality geochemical and regolith maps at regional to continental scales has rekindled interest in landscape geochemistry. Interaction between exploration geochemistry and environmental geochemistry practitioners is increasing – both groups commonly ask the same fundamental questions about the factors controlling the behaviour of metals in the surficial environment. Such convergence has been recognized in moves to provide platforms (publications and conferences) where both sides of the artificial geochemical divide can meet. This year AAG successfully held its biennial symposium – the International Applied Geochemistry Symposium – in Oviedo, Spain. It was great to see a number of new faces presenting at the conference and a broadening of the themes to span the gamut from exploration to environmental geochemistry.

The most serious challenge is not technical but the increasing severity in the shortage of suitably qualified Earth scientists (especially in research) coupled with a progressive contraction of geology in the global university sector. Such a shortage flies in the face of the massive environmental and resource issues facing society and the many career opportunities for geochemists. This theme has been similarly addressed by others within the *Elements* family of societies. The contraction has severe implications for the growth and even the existence of most associations and societies within the realms of geochemistry and mineralogy. While we continue to approach governments, industry and university administrations to garner increased support for research and teaching in the Earth sciences, we must also look to ways in which the various societies that have interests in geochemistry, mineralogy and petrology can provide mutual support while maintaining the diversity of our disciplines.

Optimistically yours,

**David Cohen**  
Sydney, Australia

### AAG INTERNATIONAL DISTINGUISHED LECTURER (2007–2008)

As mentioned in an earlier issue of *Elements*, Professor Kurt Kyser (Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada) has been selected as the AAG International Distinguished Lecturer for 2007 and 2008. Please check out the AAG website for further information, abstracts and requests for one or more lectures.

THE TITLES OF KURT'S PRESENTATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Controls on ore-forming processes in sedimentary basins and their implications for exploration strategies
- Using isotopes as tracers of sources and processes for element migration: new frontiers that add value to exploration geochemistry
- Using dendrochemistry to monitor the environment and find undercover ore deposits



Kurt Kyser

Kurt Kyser is the director of the Queen's Facility for Isotope Research. His research interests include isotope geochemistry, the evolution of fluids in basins, environmental and exploration geochemistry, and fluid–rock interactions. He received his BSc in chemistry from the University of California, San Diego, and his MA and PhD in geology from the University of California, Berkeley. He moved to Canada in 1981, first to the University of Saskatchewan and in 1996 to Queen's University. He has contributed to understanding the processes associated with water–rock interactions and has helped develop or refine several novel analytical techniques for complex natural materials. His interests include sedimentary basins and many of the chemical processes that go on in these complex structures, as well as the processes by which elements move in the near-surface environment.

### AAG'S 2006 STUDENT PAPER PRIZE



Jamil A. Sader

The Association of Applied Geochemists and SGS Ltd. are pleased to announce that Jamil A. Sader is the winner of the 2006 Student Paper Prize. This prize is awarded for the best paper written by a student on work performed as a student and published in a refereed scientific journal within five years of graduation. The paper must address an aspect of exploration geochemistry or environmental geochemistry related to the mining industry. Jamil's winning paper is based on research that he undertook for his MSc at the University of Texas at Dallas.

His award-winning paper is entitled "Low-temperature serpentinization processes and kimberlite groundwater signatures in the Kirkland Lake and Lake Timiskaming kimberlite fields, Ontario, Canada: implications for diamond exploration." It is co-authored by Matthew I. Leybourne, M. Beth McClenaghan and Stewart M. Hamilton and was published in 2007 in *Geochemistry, Exploration, Environment, Analysis* (7: 3-22). Jamil completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan and is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Ottawa. He received a \$1000 cash prize from SGS, a two-year membership in the Association of Applied Geochemists, together with our journal, *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis*, our newsletter, *Explore*, and a certificate of recognition. The Association of Applied Geochemists would like to thank SGS for, once again, supporting this prize. For the 2007–2008 competition, papers **must** have been published (or accepted for publication) in *GEEA*.

### AAG AND PDAC EXPLORATION GEOCHEMISTRY SHORT COURSE

In conjunction with the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada meeting in early March (2008) in Toronto (Canada), AAG is organizing a one-day premeeting exploration geochemistry short course that will be of interest to a wide variety of applied geochemists and exploration geologists. Please visit <http://www.pdac.ca/pdac/conv/index.html> for more information.