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Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I was elected as the new president of the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP) during the sixth Italian Forum of Earth Sciences (Geoitalia 2007), held last September in Rimini. I would like to thank all SIMP members for their vote of confidence as well as members of the previous SIMP Council, and, last but not least, past-president Piero Lattanzi, for

their great work and enthusiastic commitment to the SIMP. Among the numerous initiatives developed by the previous SIMP Council, I would like to mention the decision to join *Elements*, which has increased the international visibility of our Society and, above all, has allowed this excellent journal to reach all SIMP members.

The new SIMP Council is in part composed of recently elected members. Stefano Poli was elected vice-president, and Massimo Coltorti, Bernardo Cesare, and Gianluca Iezzi became members of the Council. The secretary, Andrea Orlando, the treasurer, Elena Bonaccorsi, and three other members of the Council, Marcello Merli, Luca Bindi, and Cecilia Viti, have been confirmed for the next two years. I am convinced that this talented and hardworking team will sustain and, why not, renew the activity of the SIMP.

The main action in this direction is the organization of the first joint meeting of the SIMP and the Italian Association of Crystallography (AIC), which will be held in September 2008 in Sestri Levante (Liguria), in the context of the International Year of Planet Earth. The chair of the meeting, Gabriella Lucchetti, the Organizing Committee, and the AIC Council are already busy at work with the SIMP team to ensure the success of this interdisciplinary scientific event.

Simona Quartieri

PLINIUS MEDAL FOR 2007 TO ROBERTA OBERTI



Roberta Oberti being congratulated by Piero Lattanzi, SIMP president, while receiving the Plinius Medal

The Plinius Medal for 2007 – the most important SIMP prize – was awarded to Roberta Oberti during the opening ceremony of Geoitalia 2007.

Roberta Oberti obtained her degree in chemistry from the University of Pavia in 1976 and was associated with that university until 1983. In 1984, she joined the CNR (National Research Council) at what is now a branch of the Istituto di Geoscienze e Georisorse in Pavia, where she currently holds the position of research director. After a short interval working on the structure of organic compounds, she turned her interests toward the crystal chemistry of minerals, where she has made many significant contributions. Her focus is on the relationships between the

structure and thermodynamic properties of important rock-forming minerals such as garnets and amphiboles. She is currently an internationally recognized expert on amphiboles, and she recently co-edited a volume of *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry* on this subject. Roberta's achievements are documented in about 140 publications in scientific journals listed in the *Journal Citation Reports*. In the early stages of her career, she received the Society's Ugo Panichi Prize for young researchers in mineralogy (1986). Later on, she was awarded the Hawley Medal of the Mineralogical Association of Canada (1994), and in 1996 she was elected Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America. Roberta has also been constantly engaged in the organization of scientific activities, serving on several committees, editorial boards, and societies. She is currently the president of the Italian Association of Crystallography (AIC). Apart from her outstanding scientific profile, the unanimous appreciation for Roberta stems from the fact that she is an absolutely lovely person. Roberta is the first woman and the first CNR member to receive the Plinius Medal. In this sense, her award is also a recognition of the fundamental contributions to the progress of mineral sciences in Italy made by women and by CNR members.

MEET THE SOCIETY NEWS EDITORS

Since the end of 2006, when it was agreed that the SIMP would participate in *Elements*, the link between the Society and the journal has been provided by a team formed by Marco Pasero (University of Pisa), Diego Perugini (University of Perugia), and Maurizio Triscari (University of Messina). Together they act as the Society News editorial staff, and within the Society, they respectively represent the three informal groups of mineralogy, petrography, and cultural heritage (GNM, GNP, and GABeC). A short outline of these groups and of their main goals was provided in issues 2, 3, and 4 (2007) of *Elements*. Thanks to the continual and integrated efforts of the editorial staff, the main facts and activities related to SIMP are brought to the attention of the world by *Elements*.



Marco Pasero playing double bass; Diego Perugini with a seal; Maurizio Triscari riding his bike