



International Association of GeoChemistry

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IAGC AWARDS FOR 2008

Vernadsky Medal

The IAGC Vernadsky Medal is awarded to Bjørn Bølviken (Norwegian Geological Survey, Norway – retired) for a distinguished record of scientific accomplishment in geochemistry over the course of his career.



Bjørn Bølviken, recipient of the IAGC Vernadsky Medal

Bjørn Bølviken, born in 1928, is a Norwegian citizen. He obtained the title Siv.ing. in chemistry in 1953 at the Technical University of Norway (NTH). He worked for a short period as a professor's assistant at NTH. Since 1954 he has been employed by the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU) in various positions within its Chemical Division, ranging from researcher to division director. He has also been an associate professor at NTH, a visiting professor at Purdue University, Indiana, and a UN expert in geochemical exploration in Ecuador while on leave of absence from NGU. He has published a number of papers in applied geochemistry, in particular

in geochemical exploration for ores, geomedicine (medical geology), natural heavy-metal poisoning of soils, electrogeochemistry, regional geochemical mapping, and the statistical treatment of data.

Other Awards

- The honorary title of IAGC Fellow is bestowed on Gunter Faure (Ohio State University, USA) and Thure E. Cerling (University of Utah, USA) for outstanding contributions to the field of geochemistry.
- The Hitchon Award goes to Ralph Seiler, Ken Stollenwerk, and John Garbarino of the U.S. Geological Survey for their 2005 paper "Factors Controlling Tungsten Concentrations in Ground Water, Carson Desert, Nevada," which appeared in volume 20 of *Applied Geochemistry*.
- IAGC Certificates of Recognition are awarded to Rosa Cidu (University of Cagliari, Italy), John Gray (U.S. Geological Survey, USA), David Long (Michigan State University, USA), Jodie Miller (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa), and LeeAnn Munk (University of Alaska-Anchorage, USA) for scientific accomplishment in a particular area of geochemistry, for excellence in teaching or public service, or for meritorious service to IAGC.

Further details about these awards and profiles of the award recipients will be provided in the next IAGC Newsletter and posted on the IAGC website (www.iagc.ca).

IAGC WELCOMES NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Four members will join the IAGC Council for the 2008–2012 term. Rona Donahoe is an aqueous geochemist in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Alabama, USA. Nancy Hinman is a hydrochemist in the Department of Geology at the University of Montana, USA. Harue Masuda is a geochemist in the Department of Geosciences at Osaka City University, Japan. Zhonghe Pang is a geochemist in the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

IAGC SPONSORS MAJOR GEOSCIENCES SYMPOSIUM AT IGC 33

Since the era of modern geochemical analysis began in the 1960s, geochemistry has played an increasingly important role in the study of planet Earth. Today highly sophisticated analytical techniques are utilized to determine the major- and trace-element inorganic and organic compositions of the Earth's cosmological sphere, its atmosphere and surficial skin, and shallow and deep interiors across a wide range of spatial scales. With this in mind, IAGC sponsored a two-day symposium entitled "Contribution of Geochemistry to the Study of the Planet" during the 33rd International Geological Congress. The symposium consisted of a "Historical Perspectives" session, which comprised a historical review of geochemistry and its contributions to the study of the Earth, and a "Today and Tomorrow" session, which considered current and future developments in geochemistry and how the rapidly evolving analytical tools and approaches used by geochemists can be used to solve emerging environmental and other societal problems.

IAGC FOCUS ON CANADA IN 2009

IAGC is looking northward to Canada for its two major events in 2009. IAGC will join the Association of Applied Geochemists in the sponsorship and organization of the 2009 International Applied Geochemistry Symposium. IAGS2009 will take place on 1–4 June 2009 at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. Keynote speakers include Kurt Kyser of Queen's University (Canada), Matt Leybourne of GNS Science (New Zealand), and William Chávez, Jr. of New

Mexico Tech (USA). Information is available at the website www.unb.ca/conferences/IAGS2009/.

The 8th Applied Isotope Geochemistry Symposium will take place just three months later. Organized by the IAGC Applied Isotope Geochemistry Working Group, this meeting will take place from 30 August to 4 September at the Manoir Richelieu, located near La Malbaie in a rural area about 1.5 hours by car from Quebec City. Further information can be obtained from Martine Savard (msavard@nrcan.gc.ca).

STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT AWARDS FOR 2009

To recognize and promote the work of young scientists in the field of geochemistry, the IAGC announced a Student Research Grant program in 2007. The objective of this initiative was to support the dissertation research of PhD students in geochemistry by helping them to undertake and acquire geochemical analyses.

An IAGC Student Research Grant award consists of a grant of up to US\$3000, a certificate, and an article profiling the recipient in the IAGC Newsletter and posted on the IAGC website. Each recipient of an IAGC Student Research Grant will also receive a complementary one-year membership in IAGC for the year following receipt of the award, if the student is not already a member.

More details on the grant program and how to apply can be found on the IAGC website, www.iagc.ca.