



Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

<http://ssmp.scnatweb.ch>

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Urs Schaltegger,
President

The members of the Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SSMP) have expressed their wish to join the *Elements* consortium. It is my great pleasure to introduce our society to this big, international mineralogical family.

The Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrology was founded in 1920 by a group of leading researchers in mineralogy, petrography and ore deposit research. One of the main aims of the new society was to publish its own journal, called *Schweizerische Mineralogische und Petrographische Mitteilungen* ("SMPM" for short). *SMPM* published mainly, but not exclusively, studies on Alpine geology. Among the authors in the first volume (1921), we recognize the names of R. L. Parker, P. Niggli, and U. Grubenmann. Contributions in *SMPM* covered a broad field of topics but focused on the petrology and geology of the central Alps. In addition, studies of magmatic petrology, mineralogy, geochronology, and ore deposits were presented regularly. Occasionally special issues were published, for example, Feldspars (47/1), Alpine Metamorphism (54/2-3, 79/1), Transition from Penninic to Austroalpine Units in the Bergell Alps (76/3), Diagenesis and Low-Grade Metamorphism (82/2), and many others. The publication of *SMPM* terminated in 2005 with volume 85. It was replaced by the *Swiss Journal of Geosciences* (www.springerlink.com/content/120520/), which is published jointly with the Swiss Geological Society and the Swiss Paleontological Society.

Our society has 320 members who work mainly in academia and industry, but it includes many amateur mineralogists. The membership is international and includes Swiss living abroad and non-Swiss residing in numerous countries, which is reflected by the fact that our society's official name has been changed to English. The SSMP is an active member of international societies such as the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) and the European Mineralogical Union (EMU). One of our main concerns, and a challenge for Earth sciences in Switzerland in general, is the availability of graduated Swiss students for our funded PhD programs. One of the main aims of the society is therefore to support the incoming generation of Earth scientists who will be responsible for the future of education and research at universities and in industry.

The SSMP is run by the following steering committee:

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- Urs Schaltegger, Geneva, president (urs.schaltegger@unige.ch)
- Bernard Grobéty, Fribourg, vice-president (bernard.grobety@unifr.ch)
- Christoph Heinrich, Zürich, past-president (heinrich@erdw.ethz.ch)
- Torsten Vennemann, Lausanne, secretary (torsten.vennemann@unil.ch)
- Eric Reusser, Zürich, treasurer (eric.reusser@erdw.ethz.ch)
- Edwin Gnos, Geneva, editor of the *Swiss Journal of Geosciences* (edwin.gnos@ville-ge.ch)
- Urs Mäder, Bern, webmaster (urs@geo.unibe.ch)
- Thilo Arlt, Schneisingen, public outreach (arlt@bluewin.ch)
- Agnès Petit-Markowski, Holderbank, economic contacts (agnes-markowski@gmail.com)

6th Swiss Geoscience Meeting November 21–23, 2008, in Lugano

The 6th annual Swiss Geoscience Meeting was organized by the Natural History Museum and the Scuola universitaria professionale della Svizzera italiana (SUPSI) of Lugano. The meeting featured a plenary session with the theme "Apply! Geosciences," 13 parallel scientific sessions, poster sessions, and a special session entitled "Deep Earth – From Crust to Core" in honour of Peter A. Ziegler. The venue of the Palazzo dei Congressi in Lugano was perfectly suited for this event and provided ample space for the more than 450 participants. Our society sponsored and organized an open session titled "Mineralogy-Petrology-Geochemistry," which was convened by B. Grobéty (Fribourg) and E. Reusser (Zürich) and attracted a large audience. A second parallel session, "Geofluids and Related Mineralization: From Shallow to Deep," was also convened by members of our society and gathered mainly specialists in ore deposit formation and water-rock interaction.

Following tradition, the annual assembly of the members of the society was held during the Swiss Geoscience Meeting. Among other matters, the assembly decided to join *Elements*. An effort by the steering committee resulted in the enrollment of a considerable number of young Swiss scientists in our society, who will all benefit from *Elements* in the future.

2008 Paul Niggli Medal to Olivier Reubi



Our society is actively involved in the annual award of the Paul Niggli Medal, Switzerland's most prestigious "young scientist award" in the Earth sciences. It has been awarded annually since 1988 by the Paul

Niggli Foundation, through a committee under the auspices of the Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrology, to young Swiss scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the research fields of mineralogy, crystal chemistry, petrology, resource geology, or exploration physics. The medal and prize are awarded yearly at the Swiss Geoscience Meeting.

The 2008 Paul Niggli Medal went to Olivier Reubi, currently a research scientist at the University of Geneva and ETH Zurich in Switzerland. He completed his PhD at Monash University in Melbourne and carried out postdoctoral projects at the universities of Otago and Bristol. Olivier received this award for his outstanding work on the geology and geochemistry of calcalkaline and intraplate volcanoes, and in particular for his detailed petrology and melt-inclusion investigations of andesites. His results from Colima and other active subduction-related volcanoes demonstrate with exceptional clarity that andesites are indeed hybrid magmas mixed from dominantly basaltic and dacitic melts, whereas actual andesitic melts are rather rare. His results confirm previous findings on the Farallón Negro complex in Argentina, showing that magma mixing is not a specific feature of porphyry-copper-mineralized magmatic systems, but probably of andesites in general.

Urs Schaltegger
President

7th Swiss Geoscience Meeting "Water Across Boundaries"

September 20 and 21, 2009

University of Neuchâtel

<http://geoscience-meeting.scnatweb.ch>