



European Mineralogical Union

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INTRODUCING THE EMU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008–2012



ROBERTA OBERTI CNR-ISTITUTO DI GEOSCIENZE E GEORISORSE, PAVIA (ITALY) OBERTI@CRYSTAL.UNIPV.IT (PRESIDENT) – Roberta's main scientific interest is in understanding the crystal chemistry of complex mineral families (mainly amphiboles, but also garnets, clinopyroxenes, staurolites and arrojadites) and producing better models for use in mineralogy, geochemistry and petrology. Her favourite approach is to combine results

from different techniques such as EMP and SIMS analyses (for trace, light and volatiles elements), single-crystal structure refinement, XAS and FTIR spectroscopies, and ab initio calculations. As the former President of the Italian Crystallographic Association (AIC), she strongly fostered inter-disciplinary approaches and international collaborations, and promoted schools and workshops in the same tune. While serving as EMU President, she will apply the same approach, and is thus looking forward to receiving support and advice from both national societies and individual scientists.



CHRISTIAN CHOPIN ECOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE, LABORATOIRE DE GÉOLOGIE, PARIS (FRANCE) CHOPIN@GEOLOGIE.ENS.FR (VICE-PRESIDENT) – Christian's main interests are in metamorphic and experimental petrology, with emphasis on high-pressure minerals and rocks, as well as in the crystal chemistry of rock-forming minerals, in particular silicates and phosphates. He enjoys collaborating with crystallographers, electron microscopists and experimental petrologists in the understanding of Earth materials. He sees the activity of our learned societies and their umbrella organizations like EMU as scientists working for scientists. He has been managing the *European Journal of Mineralogy* for 9 years in this spirit.



FERNANDO GERVILLA UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA, DEPARTAMENTO DE MINERALOGÍA Y PETROLOGÍA, GRANADA (SPAIN) GERVILLA@UGR.ES (VICE-PRESIDENT) – Fernando is mainly interested in the metallogeny of mafic and ultramafic rocks: chromite deposits, Ni-Cu sulfide deposits, and the mineralogy and geochemistry of platinum-group elements. Among his special interests are the role played by arsenic and arsenide minerals

in the concentration of platinum-group elements in magmatic systems, the genesis of ophiolitic chromitites, and the factors controlling the concentration of platinum-group minerals in ophiolitic chromitites. He approaches all these topics from a mineralogical point of view, underlining the importance of the information provided by ore mineralogy. His teaching and research experience in ore mineralogy will help in the organization of any activity (meetings, workshops, courses, etc.) related to the crystallography, mineral chemistry, phase relations, genesis and applications of ore minerals under the umbrella of EMU but also in collaboration with the Commission on Ore Mineralogy of IMA. He is the Spanish national representative on this commission.



ERNST A. J. BURKE DE LINGST 19, NL-6081 GK HAELEN (NETHERLANDS) ERNST.BURKE@XS4ALL.NL (TREASURER) – Ernst worked from 1965 until his retirement at the Faculty of Earth (and Life) Sciences of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. His research interests were systematic mineralogy (especially of opaque minerals), Raman microspectrometry of fluid inclusions and archaeometry. He also served as head of the laboratory of micro-

analysis. His research results have been published in about 70 papers in scientific journals. He unknowingly practiced the modern term 'out-

reach' in about 60 papers in mineralogical/geological journals for the general public. He experienced the friction between these two worlds as Chair of the IMA Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification.



HERTA EFFENBERGER UNIVERSITÄT WIEN, INSTITUT FÜR MINERALOGIE UND KRISTALLOGRAFIE, WIEN (AUSTRIA) HERTA.SILVIA.EFFENBERGER@UNIVIE.AC.AT (SECRETARY) – Herta works in the fields of crystal and structural chemistry. Her interests focus on stereochemical and topological aspects of minerals and inorganic compounds. Her research activities mainly involve crystal-structure investigations of natural material and related synthetic phases. Herta

believes that the broad field of mineralogy and the interdisciplinary understanding of our environment have become increasingly important links between raw materials and industrial products. The quality and physical properties of products are controlled by techniques developed and used by mineralogists. Bringing European scientists closer together strengthens their scientific research. Schools and workshops give young scientists an updated overview of recent topics. With the contribution of the national member societies and the activity of our colleagues, EMU cares for the advancement of the mineralogical sciences.

EMU POSTER PRIZES

In 2007, EMU began to award poster prizes at relevant international conferences to young scientists working in the mineralogical sciences and allied disciplines.



The first recipient was **Lucjan A. Pajdzik** (Clarendon Laboratory, Physics Department, Oxford, UK), who presented a poster entitled "Three-Dimensional Birefringence Imaging of Optically Anisotropic Materials" at the 24th meeting of the European Crystallographic Association (Marrakech, Morocco, August 22–27, 2007). Lucjan developed a new apparatus, consisting of an imaging system with a combination of a rotating polarizer and a circular analyzer with a two-axis tilting-stage, which allows accurate

determination of birefringence information on anisotropic materials in any general orientation. It also permits the measurement of the preferred orientation of uniaxial and biaxial crystal-lites in polycrystalline materials.



During the 21st General Assembly and Congress of the International Union of Crystallography (Osaka, Japan, 23–31 August, 2008), the EMU poster prize was awarded to **Mihoko Hoshino** from the Department of Earth Evolution Sciences of the University of Tsukuba (Japan). Mihoko showed her passion for mineralogy and her expertise while defending a well-prepared and well-presented work entitled "First Report on Natural Oxallanite: Oxidation and Dehydration during Welding of Volcanic Tuff". In this study, she combined the results of EMP analysis, structure refinement, FTIR spectroscopy and bond-valence calculations to detect and constrain different amounts of dehydrogenation in allanite.