



Association of Applied Geochemists

www.appliedgeochemists.org

PAUL MORRIS IS AAG'S NEW PRESIDENT



Paul Morris

Paul Morris, of the Geological Survey of Western Australia, took over from David Cohen as president of the Association of Applied Geochemists on January 1, 2010. Paul is a graduate of Otago University and Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, and has held academic positions at the University of Sydney and Shimane University in western Japan. For the past 20 years, he has worked at the Geological Survey of Western Australia, based in Perth, where he has dealt mainly with the generation, interpretation and dissemination of multi-element, regional geochemical datasets to support the mineral exploration industry in Western Australia. As well, he has continued to pursue his interests in the petrogenesis of igneous rocks, in particular Archean greenstones and Proterozoic intrusive rocks related to large igneous provinces. Since joining AAG (then AEG) in 1999, Paul has co-chaired AAG's Symposium Committee and organised the 2005 International Applied Geochemistry Symposium in Perth with Nigel Radford.

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COMMENTS FROM PAUL MORRIS, AAG PRESIDENT

In spite of the slowdown in the mineral exploration industry over the past 18 months, the underlying importance of geochemistry, and associations such as AAG that foster it, was underlined by the attendance of more than 300 delegates at AAG's biennial International Association of Geochemistry Symposium, held in Fredericton, New Brunswick (Canada) in June 2009. More than one-third of the attendees were students, another positive sign that geochemistry is still viewed as a worthwhile career option. AAG is aware that its future relies on increasing the number of members in general, and students in particular – of our 500 members, about 6% are students, and AAG is keen to grow these numbers. To that end, the Association offers financial assistance to students to attend IAGS meetings, provides reduced registration costs for students, and sponsors a student-paper prize. Fundamental to attracting students to AAG are the efforts of its senior members who hold academic positions and can promote the importance of geochemistry and associations, such as AAG, to their students.

AAG's journal, *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis (GEEA)*, continues to publish a wide variety of papers dealing with the use of geochemistry in mineral exploration and environmental assessment. Thematic issues such as *Geochemical Mapping* (volume 5, part 4, 2005) and *Natural Analogues for Radioactive Waste Disposal Strategies* (volume 6, part 1, 2006) exemplify the exploration and environmental interests of AAG members. *GEEA* is complemented by AAG's quarterly magazine, *EXPLORE*, copies of which can be downloaded free of charge from AAG's website (www.appliedgeochemists.org).

In 2011, the 25th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium will be held on 22–26 August in Rovaniemi, Finland. It is fitting that the Finns host an IAGS, as geochemistry has well-established credentials in Finland: geochemical techniques used for exploring in glaciated terrains were either developed or refined in that country. The symposium website (www.iags2011.fi) was launched at the Fredericton IAGS meeting, and I suggest you have a look at the comprehensive technical and social program that is planned, as well as the field excursions and workshops. In 2012, the 34th International Geological Congress (IGC) will be held in Brisbane (Australia) on 2–10 August (see www.34igc.org). AAG is a supporting organisation and aims to provide a number of contributions to a thematic session.

Paul Morris



International Association of GeoChemistry

www.iagc.ca

MEETINGS PAST AND PLANNED

In 2009, the IAGC was heavily involved in two major meetings: the 24th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS 2009) and the eighth Applied Isotope Geochemistry Symposium (AIG-8). Reports on these two meetings have been published in previous issues of *Elements* (volume 5, number 5, page 328, and volume 5, number 6, pages 386, 401, and 402).

FEG 2011

The 2011 'Frontiers in Environmental Geoscience' conference will be held in Aberystwyth, Wales, on 21–23 June 2011. This meeting will be the main meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2011. It will cover a number of 'hot topics' of interest to those working in mineralogy, environmental mineralogy, waste management and contamination clean-up. We are expecting about 120 to 150 delegates (although more would be welcome). The following sessions have been proposed:

1. Mine drainage: Geochemistry and mineralogy
2. Tracking contaminant transport from geological media through the food chain to humans
3. Urban geochemistry and mineralogy: Impacts on water, air and health
4. Toxicity and environmental behaviour of man-made materials
5. Applied mineralogy in the critical zone: Metal reactions at mineral surfaces
6. Integration of computational and experimental environmental mineralogy
7. Environmental clay mineralogy and technology
8. Geochemistry of platinum-group minerals

We encourage IAGC members to get involved in the organization of these and other sessions and invite members to help by co-convening a session or by proposing/organizing special theme sessions. Interested persons should contact the convenor, Dr. Nick Pearce. For more information about the conference, please do not hesitate to contact him directly at njp@aber.ac.uk (telephone: +44 (0) 1970 622599).

RECENT TITLES IN GEOCHEMISTRY

One of the benefits of attending a large national/international geoscience meeting is visiting the display stands of the major textbook and research text publishers. IAGC members Bill Evans and Phil Verplank volunteered to spend a few hours during the recent Geological Society of America meeting, Portland, Oregon, on 18–21 October 2009, perusing the new-book offerings of the publishing companies present at the exhibition. A list of recent titles in geochemistry was published in IAGC Newsletter 51 and can be downloaded at www.iagc.ca/newsletters/IAGC_Newsletter_51.pdf

"ABANDONED MINING SITES: LESSONS LEARNED FROM HYDROGEOCHEMICAL STUDIES IN SARDINIA"

This article, by Rosa Cidu (Università di Cagliari), has been contributed as a short paper on a current environmental geochemistry topic and can be downloaded at www.iagc.ca/newsletters/IAGC_Newsletter_51.pdf. Previous articles in IAGC Newsletters have described options for nuclear waste disposal and environmental health in the Balkans. If you have a suitable article to contribute, please contact the newsletter editor, Mel Gascoyne (gascoyne@granite.mb.ca).