# Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

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## RICCARDO VANNUCCI – WINNER OF THE PLINIUS MEDAL 2009

During the opening ceremony of Geoitalia 2009 – 7th Italian Forum of Earth Sciences (Rimini, September 9–11, 2009), SIMP president Simona Quartieri conferred the 2009 Plinius Medal (the highest honour granted by SIMP) to Prof. Riccardo Vannucci, in recognition of his great expertise in the fields of geochemistry and of the evolution of the solid Earth.

Plinius medallist Riccardo Vannucci and SIMP president Simona Quartieri

Riccardo Vannucci is a full professor of geochemistry at the University of Pavia and has one of the highest ranks within the national and international scientific community dealing with solid Earth. His scientific activity is focused on the reconstruction of the subcontinental mantle in different geodynamic environments, based on data gathered through the study of geochemical tracers and their utilization in understanding magma genesis and evolution. He has also studied ash, minerals, and glass inclusions in lavas and pyroclastics at Etna and Stromboli volcanoes, in order to obtain information on magmatic feeder systems and deep and surface mechanisms. In only the last 10 years, he has published more than 50 papers in high-impact-factor journals.

Among Riccardo's distinguishing features is his enthusiasm for undertaking new scientific challenges, including carrying out geological surveys all over the world (Zabargad, western Alps, Corsica, northern Apennines, Canary Islands, Morocco, northeastern Brazil, southern Patagonia), setting up new laboratories and analytical methods, and studying atomic-scale processes during the incorporation and partitioning of trace elements into the principal and accessory minerals of a rock. Moreover, Riccardo has acted as a valued tutor towards a large number of younger colleagues and students, most of whom are now involved in important national and international research projects.

Among Riccardo Vannucci's various commitments were his participation in the Council of the European Association of Geochemistry (1999–2004) and the Italian CNR (National Research Council); in the latter, he was a member of the scientific council of the Centro di Studio per la Cristallochimica e la Cristallografia in 1990–2000 and a member of the Committee of the Istituto di Geoscienze e Georisorse in 2000–2008. Currently, he is Area 04 representative for PRIN national research projects.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SIMP WEB PAGES

Since the redesign of the Society website (www.socminpet.it), more sections have been added in order to provide useful and interesting information about mineralogical and geological events. Particular attention is here paid to two of them: Doctorate Schools in Italy (www.socminpet.it/Dottorati.php) and Mineral Collector Groups (www.socminpet.it/Collezionismo.php). The Doctorate Schools in Italy section gives an up-to-date outline of careers and research fields in a number of universities and provides information about related research fields. The Mineral Collector Groups section gives an overall panorama of the main mineral, fossil, and gem shows in Italy and is complemented by a section on relevant publications (www.socminpet.it/PubblicazioniCollezionismo.php) and by a set of links (www.socminpet.it/Links Collezionismo.php) to various collector groups that have made important contributions to the finding of new and rare mineral specimens.

# Sociedad Española de Mineralogía

www.ehu.es/sem

The participants in the first meeting of the DELTA-MIN Initial Training Network pose in the gardens of the Carmen de la Victoria Palace (Granada, Spain), where the meeting was held.

## DELTA-MIN TRAINING NETWORK FIRST MEETING

On October 4–9, 2009, the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology of the University of Granada (Granada, Spain) hosted the first meeting of the project "DELTA-MIN: Mechanisms of mineral-replacement reactions." DELTA-MIN is a Marie Curie Initial Training Network funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme. The Network provides training in research for twelve 3-year Early Stage Researchers (ESR; doctoral students) and two 2-year Experienced Researchers (ER; postdoctoral level). This multipartner (9 partners, plus 4 associated partners), multinational (8 EU countries), 4-year project, which started September 1, 2008, aims at conducting research and education in the broad field of mineralogy and geochemistry, and has the specific goal of enabling ESRs and ERs to develop their careers in this fast-evolving field. The research themes of DELTA-MIN relate to the mechanisms of mineral reequilibration (phase transformation) in the presence of a fluid phase. These mechanisms are investigated in a wide range of minerals and rocks, under a range of chemical and physical conditions, using both natural and experimental samples.

During this first meeting, ESRs, ERs, and senior researchers from the different partner institutions presented and discussed current research on topics such as metasomatic reactions in rocks, chemical weathering, mineral-replacement mechanisms in $CO_2$ sequestration, the aqueous durability of nuclear waste materials, remediation of contaminated water by mineral reaction, and the preservation of stone-based cultural heritage; all of these topics are linked by a common thread: interface-coupled dissolution–reprecipitation mineral-replacement reactions. During the last two days of the meeting, visiting scientist Prof. Manolo Prieto (University of Oviedo), president of the Mineralogical Society of Spain, gave a short course entitled "Introduction to modeling programme PHREEQC," which was attended by more than 40 people. The next DELTA-MIN meeting will be held in Seefeld, Austria, February 28 to March 5, 2010. For further information about DELTA-MIN, please visit www.delta-min.com/.