



# International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

## EARLY CAREER AWARD

For the fifth consecutive year, the IAG has given out its Early Career Researcher Award, which highlights geoanalytical excellence as shown in an abstract submitted to the Goldschmidt Conference. Eligibility for this award is based on three criteria specified by the IAG's governing council: (1) the first author of the abstract must either be pursuing a university degree related to geoanalysis or have completed his/her most recent degree within the past five years, (2) the abstract must be the result of work conducted largely by the first author and must address one of the core interests of the IAG, and (3) the first author must personally be presenting his/her work at the Goldschmidt meeting. This year 636 abstracts were submitted to the IAG for consideration; hence there were many high-quality submissions to be considered by the IAG's panel of six judges. The IAG is very pleased to report that its Early Career Researcher Award for 2010 was presented to Dr. Regina Mertz-Kraus of the Max-Planck Institut für Chemie in Mainz, Germany, for her abstract titled "Combined Th-U Isotope and Multi-Element Analyses by LA-ICP-MS." The IAG congratulates Dr. Mertz-Kraus for the excellence of her contribution and wishes her a bright future in the field of geoanalysis.



Dr. Regina Mertz-Kraus receiving the 2010 Early Career Researcher Award from IAG president Dr. Michael Wiedenbeck at the Goldschmidt Conference in Knoxville, USA

## IAG BOOTH AT GOLDSCHMIDT

Enlarging further the IAG's activities at the Goldschmidt Conference, the IAG joined up with GEOROC and GeoReM this year in sponsoring an information booth located in the main exhibit hall where the poster sessions were held. This new initiative was a certain success as around 100 delegates expressed an interest in the activities of these three organizations. IAG's new partnership with these two database operators, both with years of experience in showcasing their services at international meetings, is a natural one. Both GEOROC and GeoReM provide the user community with easy access to large volumes of high-quality geochemical data, whereas one of the IAG's core missions is to give analytical geochemists the means to assure that their data quality is fit for the required purpose.



For five days a steady flow of delegates visited the GEOROC-GeoReM-IAG information booth in the Goldschmidt exhibition hall.

## CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The IAG's Materials Certification Committee held its 2010 annual gathering in Knoxville, Tennessee, in advance of the Goldschmidt Conference. This year's meeting was a two-day event, held at the Geology Department of the University of Tennessee. The first day was devoted to a preliminary evaluation of the data sets for two ultramafic materials, which are the current focus of the committee's efforts. In collaboration with the Ontario Geological Survey, the IAG intends to issue Certificates of Analysis for a broad range of major and trace elements for these two new whole-rock materials by the end of 2010. The second day was dedicated to more general topics, including medium-term planning for future certification rounds, the means for streamlining data submission, and the refinement of the statistical methods used for data evaluation. Having now established the tradition that the Certification Committee meets on an annual basis and having signed memoranda of understanding with two reference material producers this year, the IAG is now well positioned for the production and certification of two new materials at roughly 12-month intervals.



The 11 members of the IAG's Certification Committee who attended this year's two-day meeting in Knoxville. The IAG thanks the University of Tennessee for its support in providing meeting space.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE WORKSHOPS

The year 2010 has brought further progress in the IAG's efforts to provide the geochemical community access to the latest concepts in quality assurance and laboratory best practice. For the first time this year the IAG held its Quality Assurance in Analytical Geochemistry single-day workshop at three different venues located on three different continents. Reflecting the truly international structure of the IAG, these venues were Knoxville, USA (13 June 2010); Canberra, Australia (9 July 2010); and Münster, Germany (23 September 2010).

Held in conjunction with major national or international meetings over the past four years, these workshops have become a key source of up-to-date information for geoanalysts wishing to assure the reliability of their data or who seek a deeper understanding of metrology theory as applied to the analysis of Earth materials. Future workshops are planned for 2011, and the IAG encourages everyone interested in this topic to attend—chances are good that a workshop will be held in a place near where you live.

Participants at the Quality Assurance workshop held during Geoscience Australia in Canberra. Left to right: Simon Francis, Lachlan Hallett, Janet Muhling, Lesley Wyborn, Liz Webber (IAG member and workshop organizer), Kyle Horner, Terry Mernagh, Paulo Abballe, Lili Yu, and Bozana Krsteska

