



# International Association of GeoChemistry

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## INTRODUCING IAGC'S NEW PRESIDENT



Clemens Reimann

Clemens Reimann of the Geological Survey of Norway took over from Russell Harmon as president of the International Association of GeoChemistry on August 17, 2010. Clemens is a graduate of the University of Hamburg, Germany, and Leoben Mining University, Austria. He held an academic position at Leoben Mining University and then spent three years as an exploration geochemist for Selco Inc. in Canada, six years in contract research in exploration and environmental geochemistry in Austria, and three years as head of the laboratory of an Austrian cement company. For the

past 17 years he has worked at the Geological Survey of Norway, based in Trondheim, with a short interlude as director, Environment and Health, at the German Environmental Protection Agency UBA. His main interests are multimedia, multielement regional geochemistry, applied to increasingly larger areas (his latest project covers 5.6 million square kilometers), biogeochemistry, and statistical data analysis. Clemens is the author of three geochemical atlases and two books. He has served for many years as associate editor of *Applied Geochemistry* and has been the IAGC vice-president since 2006.

### President's Message

At the beginning of my two-year term as IAGC president, I want to thank our outgoing president, Russell Harmon, for his commitment to IAGC during his many years of service as Council member, vice-president, and president. During his term as president, which began in 2006, the statutes and by-laws of the IAGC were amended, an operations handbook was prepared, and several new awards were established. Among the latter are the IAGC student research grants, the aim of which is to attract more students to the association. He also organized IAGC's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations during the Goldschmidt Conference in Cologne in 2007.

IAGC has been a healthy and growing society over the past years. Our journal, *Applied Geochemistry*, is going strong thanks to the excellent management of our experienced executive editor, Ron Fuge. The IAGC working groups (Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface, Water-Rock Interaction, Global Geochemical Baselines, Urban Geochemistry, and Applied Isotope Geochemistry) are the foundation of the society and continue to grow. Important and very successful meetings held by the working groups often result in special issues of *Applied Geochemistry*.

The continued success of the IAGC relies on the efforts of a relatively small group of members who serve as officers, Council members, and working group leaders. Without their dedication, it would be impossible to run a relatively small association like ours. You will find their names on the back cover of every IAGC newsletter (see our website, <http://www.iagc.ca>), and I am sure you will recognize many of the names from their scientific contributions to applied geochemistry. Although we depend heavily on the voluntary work of our members, the workload scientists face in their daily lives increases steadily, and most organizations are no longer willing to back this type of commitment by their staff. It is thus an important task to motivate more, and especially young, members to become active in the IAGC.

At present, IAGC relies almost exclusively on income generated by our journal, *Applied Geochemistry*. That may change in the not too distant future, and in the next few years, we will need to attract new members and look at new opportunities for generating income. I would like to see an increase in communication throughout the whole organization

—let's use the modern and inexpensive communication channels available to us to stay in closer contact. One of our weaknesses is that, although we have many sponsored working group conferences, there is no IAGC-run conference series. Maybe such an initiative would be a means to increase direct communication among our members and create income for the association. We will need new business ideas, and I urge all members with suggestions to bring them forward in personal discussions with me or with any other officer or Council member of the association.

We are now seeing a growing realization at the political level of the importance of applied geochemistry in many fields of human activity. Knowledge of both geoscience and chemistry is urgently needed to understand, address, and solve many of the environmental problems of modern society. In particular, the interplay between the geosphere and the biosphere will need our full attention during the coming years. Who is better prepared than an applied geochemist to address this issue?

**Clemens Reimann**  
IAGC President

## 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface (GES-9)

**3–7 June 2011, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA**

The Ninth International Symposium on the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface continues a triennial series begun 25 years ago by the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface (GES) Working Group of the International Association of GeoChemistry. These symposia cover the geochemistry of rock, water, air, and life on the surface of the Earth, in both natural and perturbed systems. The 2011 meeting theme—**Geochemical Landscapes in the Anthropocene**—highlights human participation, both passive and active, in geochemical systems. The meeting will also serve as a gathering point for researchers interested in Critical Zone science. The University of Colorado campus is a leader in environmental research, and is renowned for its beautiful setting at the foot of the Colorado Front Range.

The meeting format is intended to foster scientific growth and dialogue. Invited speakers will give in-depth talks on conference themes in daily plenary sessions. Conference delegates will bring posters to stimulate discussion during focused poster sessions. A half-day mid-conference break can be used to explore the local environment on your own, or to take an optional field trip to the Boulder Creek Critical Zone Observatory (<http://czo.colorado.edu/>) or to Rocky Mountain National Park. These trips will take participants into the Colorado Front Range and will emphasize research on weathering and biogeochemistry.

### GES-9 conference themes

Microbial Geochemistry • Environmental Geochemistry • Organic Contaminants • Critical Zone Processes • Rivers as Landscape Integrators • Global Geochemical Cycles

### Invited speakers (preliminary)

Kyungsoo Yoo (U. Minnesota, USA), Sue Brantley (Penn State U., USA), François Chabaux (U. Strasbourg, France), Kristin Schirmer (EAWAG, Switzerland), Fred Mackenzie (U. Hawai'i, USA), Jérôme Gaillardet (IPGP, France), Baerbel Hönlisch (Lamont Doherty, USA), Niels Hovius (U. Cambridge, UK), Derek Vance (Bristol, UK), Eric Oelkers (U. Toulouse, France), Eric Sundquist (USGS, USA), Mark Hodson (U. Reading, UK), Nikolaos Nikolaidis (Tech. Univ. of Crete), Jane Plant (Imperial College, UK), Thomas Hofstetter (EAWAG, Switzerland), Herbert Buxton (USGS, USA), Jean-Dominique Meunier (CNRS, Aix-en-Provence, France)

**Suzanne Anderson**

INSTAAR and Dept. of Geography, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309, USA; e-mail: [Suzanne.anderson@colorado.edu](mailto:Suzanne.anderson@colorado.edu)