FROM THE PRESIDENT

In AAG's March 2011 edition of its quarterly magazine EXPLORE (all copies of EXPLORE can be downloaded for free from AAG's website at www.appliedgeochemists.org), I discussed the geographic diversity of the association's membership, which is currently drawn from over 50 countries. This membership is drawn from government, academia and industry, and includes some of the foremost practitioners in the development and application of geochemical techniques. Many of these are current AAG officers, and some have held one or more such positions in AAG for significant periods during its 40-year history. Despite the commitment shown by a number of members, the future health of the association can only be guaranteed if we continue to add younger members, who will eventually take on leadership roles in the association. Although this is now happening, there is an ongoing need to attract and retain student members who have an interest in applied geochemistry. We are concerned that the membership includes only a small number of students. Like other professional organisations, AAG offers financial incentives to attract and support students, such as subsidised membership and financial help to a number of students to attend its biennial International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS). However, in order to foster applied geochemistry and boost AAG's student membership, a new initiative by AAG's Education Committee is being developed to order to foster applied geochemistry and boost AAG's student membership, a new initiative by AAG's Education Committee is being developed. By means of this initiative, AAG will connect applied geochemistry students with analytical laboratories that will provide geochemical analyses to support the student's research work. The initiative is seen as being of benefit to all parties. Those interested in following up on this approach – and other planned areas of support for applied geochemistry students – are advised to keep a watch on EXPLORE. I am sure that students who participate in these AAG programs will realise the collateral benefits of belonging to the oldest applied geochemistry professional body, and some will take up the opportunity to steer it in the future.

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RECENT ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN EXPLORE

Stephen Amor (2011) Responses in lake sediments and waters to occurrences of rare earths and rare metals in the Canadian Shield. EXPLORE 151 (September 2011)

A number of deposits of rare earth elements (REE) and rare metals (RM) in the Canadian Shield are compared in terms of their geochemical response in lake sediments and waters. The geochemical data were drawn from the Geological Survey of Canada's National Geochemical Reconnaissance (NGR) lake-sampling program and from programs carried out by the geological surveys of Ontario and Quebec. Most of these data are available for free download. Mineral-occurrence data were derived from online mineral deposit databases for the provinces and territories and from company websites.

Responses vary from strong and focused, through regional and not directly associated with known deposits, to none at any scale. For occurrences that do have a geochemical signature, fluoride in lake water (Fw) and Mo in lake sediment frequently show an anomalous response, as do the REE (and certain RM). Therefore, Fw and Mo constitute useful pathfinders for these occurrences, particularly where analyses of REE and RM have not been carried out on the sediments. Occurrences of Li show little or no response, even in Li itself, although there is no lake-sampling coverage over certain important Li camps.

There are many untested anomalies in the Canadian Shield suggestive of the presence of REE/RM mineralization, particularly in northeastern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, southeastern Nunavut and Labrador. Many are situated in ground that is currently unstaked. However, in the presence of other favourable indicators, the absence of a REE/RM anomaly in lake sediments and waters is not a reason to write off an area's prospectivity.

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The URGE project is being carried out by a sub-group of the GEG led by Rolf Tore Ottesen of the Geological Survey of Norway. The aim of URGE is to carry out urban geochemical mapping of 10–12 European cities using a common sampling and analytical protocol, ensuring that results are directly comparable across the continent. The sampling is being carried out during 2011, all analytical results will be available in 2012, and “final reporting” will occur around the end of 2014.

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