FROM THE PRESIDENT

On January 1, 2012, I succeeded Paul Morris as president of the Association of Applied Geochemists. I am a graduate of the University of Colorado and the Colorado School of Mines, USA. For more than 30 years, I have worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, based in Denver, Colorado, beginning with geologic mapping and exploration geochemistry in Arizona, Colorado, and Sonora, Mexico. In the early 1990s, my work took me to western and northern Alaska, where I focused on exploration geochemistry and mineral resource assessment.

In 1995, I broadened my interests to include the environmental geochemistry of both undisturbed and historically mined mineral deposits in the national forests of Idaho and in the Wrangell-St. Elias and Denali national parks in Alaska. Currently, I am part of a USGS team evaluating exploration geochemical methods at the undisturbed, giant Pebble porphyry Cu–Au–Mo deposit in southwestern Alaska. I am an AAG fellow and have served as councillor, vice-president, and website coordinator for AAG.

As I begin my two-year term as AAG president, I look forward to leading the organization. However, the proactive and stellar leadership of our past president, Paul Morris, is a tough act to follow. In his December 2011 Elements message, Paul detailed the successful 25th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS), held in Rovaniemi, Finland, in August 2011. The biennial IAGS is AAG’s flagship meeting, routinely bringing together several hundred geochemists from around the world to exchange ideas, network, go on field trips, and see the latest developments in applied geochemistry, typically with a strong focus on mineral deposits. Coming up in November 2013 is the 26th IAGS, to be held in Rotorua, New Zealand (www.gns.cri.nz/iags/index.html). Early discussions are under way to select the country and venue for the 27th IAGS in 2015. Proposals are being solicited; see AAG’s website (www.appliedgeochemists.org) for symposium guidelines and details.

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In addition, AAG initiated a program in 2011 offering subsidized memberships to qualified scientists from developing countries. With student funding opportunities, subsidized memberships, and financial assistance available to help students attend IAGS, we hope to see continued growth in applied geochemistry and in the Association of Applied Geochemists.

AAG members are active in organizing conference sessions and workshops in 2012. For the June 2012 Goldschmidt Conference (www.vmgoldschmidt.org/2012/index.htm) in Montréal, Canada, AAG members John Carranza and Cliff Stanley are convening the session “Vectoring towards Mineral Deposits: Integrated Spatial Analysis of Geochemical and Other Mineral Exploration Datasets.” Planning for the 2013 conference continues (www.34igc.org) in Brisbane, Australia (August 2012), of which AAG is an institutional supporter. AAG members are involved in a workshop (“Geochemistry in Mineral Exploration,” coordinated by David Cohen) and in organizing several sessions: “Advances in Geochemical Exploration” (David Cohen, Ravi Anand, Ryan Noble, David Lawie, Graham Closs, Andrew Rate, and Mark Arundall), “Global Geochemical Mapping: Understanding Chemical Earth” (Dave Smith, Xueqiu Wang, and Patrice de Caritat), “Environmental Aspects of Mining” (Bernd Lottermoser and Kirk Nordstrom), and “Advances in the Evaluation and Interpretation of Geochemical Data at the Continental Scale” (Eric Gruensky and Patrice de Caritat).

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