



# International Association of GeoChemistry

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## IAGC AWARDS FOR 2012

The IAGC is proud to announce a first round of recipients of its awards for 2012: new IAGC Fellows and recipients of the Certificate of Recognition. The recipients of the Distinguished Service Award, the Vernadsky Medal, and the Elsevier Student Research Grants will be profiled in the next issue of *Elements*. Congratulations to the winners!

### Fellows

The honorary title of IAGC Fellow is bestowed on scientists who have made significant contributions to the field of geochemistry.



**Susan Brantley**, for fundamental research contributions to the understanding of geochemical processes within the critical zone. IAGC member Susan Brantley received a PhD from Princeton University in 1987 and is currently a professor of geosciences at the Pennsylvania State University, director of the Earth & Environmental Systems Institute, and director of the Center for Environmental Kinetics Analysis at PSU. As one of the leading aqueous geochemists of her generation, Professor Brantley has explored important questions like the chemical-weathering rates of silicate minerals, the kinetics of water-rock interaction, soil-forming processes, and the effects of microbial processes on mineral dissolution and soil development. She is widely published in the top-tier geochemical journals, including *Applied Geochemistry*.



**Norbert Clauer**, for outstanding research on the geochemistry of clay minerals. IAGC member Norbert Clauer received his PhD from the Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg in 1976 and currently is emeritus research director of the French National Research Council (CNRS) and scientific director of the French Nuclear Waste Repository National Agency. As documented through more than 170 research publications, Dr. Clauer is a recognized international authority on clay minerals. Over the course of a distinguished research career, he has used the tools of chemistry and isotope chemistry to understand the mechanisms of clay crystallization and recrystallization; the behavior of detrital and authigenic clay minerals during deposition, diagenesis, low-grade metamorphism, and weathering; and the geochemistry of sedimentary brines.

### Certificates of Recognition

The Certificate of Recognition is awarded to IAGC members for outstanding scientific accomplishment in a particular area of geochemistry, for excellence in teaching or public service, or for meritorious service to the Association or the international geochemistry community.



**Olle Selinus**, for significant contributions to the fields of environmental geochemistry and medical geology. IAGC member Olle Selinus is a PhD geologist with the Geological Survey of Sweden. During the 1960s and 1970s, he worked in mineral exploration, and since the beginning of the 1980s his research work has dealt with environmental geochemistry, including research on medical geology. Dr. Selinus

has more than 100 research publications in environmental geochemistry. He has also served as the organizer of several international conferences in this field and was vice-president of the International Geological Congress in Oslo in 2008. He served as editor-in-chief for the book *Essentials of Medical Geology* and as president of the International Medical Geology Association, which began as an IAGC working group. He has received several international awards and was appointed Geologist of the Year in Sweden for his work in medical geology.



**Suzanne Prestrud Anderson**, for organizing and leading the 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface (GES-9), in Boulder, Colorado, in June 2011. IAGC member Susan P. Anderson is an associate professor of geography in the Department of Geography at the University of Colorado and a fellow of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research. She received a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in 1995. Her research interests are focused on the field-based, mechanistic understanding of the chemical and physical processes that shape the Earth's surface and control denudation rates.



**Neus Otero**, for coorganizing the 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG-9), in Tarragona, Spain, in September 2011. Dr. Otero received her PhD from the University of Barcelona in 2004 and is currently a tenure-track lecturer in the Department of Crystallography, Mineralogy and Ore Deposits at the Universitat de Barcelona and coordinator of the environmental projects of the Mineralogia Aplicada i Medi Ambient (Applied Mineralogy and Environment) research group. She uses isotopic tools to evaluate the fate of contaminants in the environment, with a special focus on natural and induced attenuation of groundwater pollution.



**Albert Soler Gil**, for coorganizing the 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG-9), in Tarragona, Spain, in September 2011. Dr. Soler received his PhD from the University of Barcelona in 1990 and is a full professor of mineralogy in the Department of Crystallography, Mineralogy and Ore Deposits at the Universitat de Barcelona. He is the coordinator of the Mineralogia Aplicada i Medi Ambient research group, and his research interests center on the use of isotopic tools to identify contamination sources, evaluate the evolution of the contaminants, and foresee natural attenuation processes.

## OBITUARY



### Ignacio S. Torres (1964–2012)

Our friend and colleague Ignacio Torres passed away unexpectedly on January 15, 2012, after a routine medical checkup at the age of 47. Ignacio S. Torres Alvarado—Nacho to his friends—leaves his wife Gaby and two children. We are deeply shocked by this tragic incident. Ignacio was born in November 1964, in Torreón, State of Coahuila, in northern Mexico. In 1988, he graduated as a geological engineer with honorable mention from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Ignacio continued his academic career in Germany, where he concluded a one-year-specialty program at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen (1988–1989). From November 1989 to October 1990, he was a junior researcher at the Institute for Electrical Research in Cuernavaca, Mexico. He returned to Tübingen in 1996 to conclude his doctoral studies with M. Satir and P. Metz at the Institute for Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry. Ignacio returned to Mexico to start a thriving academic career in geothermal studies at the Centro de Investigación en Energía (CIE) of the UNAM in Temixco, Morelos State, central Mexico, first as associate (1997–2002) then as permanent professor (2003–2012).

Ignacio received awards from several societies throughout his career, including the Gabino Barreda Medal from UNAM, selection as member of the Mexican Academy of Science and the National System for Scientists, and election as president of the Mexican Institute for Geochemistry from 2002 to 2004. In recognition of his active participation in IAGC's Water-Rock Interaction Working Group, in 2010 he received the Friend of Water-Rock Interaction Award. During his short career, he published several dozens journal papers, book chapters, extended abstracts, and registered patents, mainly related to mineralogical, geochemical, and isotopic issues in hydrothermal systems.

Nacho was anxious to support and enhance the use of renewable energy in Mexico, which is also reflected in the establishment of the bachelor's program in renewable energy at CIE. He was known for his open manner of interacting with people. His international network of contacts and professional collaborators is an exceptional example for productive worldwide relations. Ignacio will be missed especially by his Mexican and German friends.

**Thomas Kretschmar**, CICESE, Mexico