



The meeting (and now the new network) was born out of a suggestion by Jon Lloyd (University of Manchester), Geoff Gadd (University of Dundee) and Joanne Santini (University College London) that a meeting be held to provide a forum for the growing number of people working in the geomicrobiology area. Eighty-five persons attended the meeting, which was held over two days and featured 19 oral and 31 poster presentations.

A full report on the meeting, a list of presentations and, in some cases, the presentations themselves with audio recordings are available at [www.minersoc.org/EMG-SGM.html](http://www.minersoc.org/EMG-SGM.html). The ground covered ranged from the deep subsurface to exoplanetary geobiology. What was striking was the number of presenters with industrial funding, indicative of the broad range of applications for this slice of science.

### A New Geomicrobiology Network for the UK

At the end of the second day's presentations, a discussion took place to decide on future gatherings and collaborations of this vibrant group of researchers. Agreement was made to form a network of geomicrobiologists. Support for the Network will be sought from the societies that supported this original meeting (Mineralogical Society and Environmental Mineralogy Group, Geological Society, Society for General Microbiology and the British Mycological Society), with possible additional support from the Royal Society of Chemistry. It was agreed that administrative support would continue to be provided by the Mineralogical Society. Meetings of the type held in Manchester will take place every two years or so, but in the meantime, the group may opt to sponsor events held by some of the supporting societies, including the Research in Progress meetings of the Environmental Mineralogy Group of the Mineralogical Society. A likely project for the Network will be to support the "bio" theme of the "Minerals for Life: Overcoming Resource Constraints" meeting of the Mineralogical Society and the Geological Society, to be held in June 2013 in Edinburgh.

The Mineralogical Society will arrange for web space (as part of its own website) for the Network as required and will host the archive for the group. In this web space, an online forum (e.g. a Google group) will be established to facilitate discussion among members of this newborn group.

### Chartered Status

By the time this issue of *Elements* lands on your desk, the first chartered scientist will have been appointed by the Mineralogical Society. This is Stuart Mills.



Stuart Mills, first chartered scientist appointed by the Mineralogical Society

All the information you need to become a chartered scientist is available at [www.minersoc.org/chartered.html](http://www.minersoc.org/chartered.html). The cost is £50 for the initial application and £45 per year thereafter. Fellows of the Society with an appropriate number of years as members may make a fast-track application.

**Kevin Murphy**, Executive Director  
Mineralogical Society

### General Assembly of the Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie

The general assembly of the SFMC was held at the University Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, on Monday, 4 June 2012. It was chaired by Bruno Goffé, the current president of the Society. Marc Blanchard, secretary, presented the main actions of the year. The two thematic groups supported by the Society, the Synchrotron Users Group and the Endogenous Petrology Group, gathered for the first time. These meetings allowed the identification of the groups' respective national communities and the topics requiring attention. A summary of the Society's implication in conferences and schools was also given. In 2011, the Haüy-Lacroix Prize rewarded the PhD work of Aurélie Violette and Johan Villeneuve (see *Elements*, volume 7, number 4). The 2011 budget was then outlined by Stéphanie Rossano, treasurer. Following these reports, Bruno Goffé presented the SFMC Medal to Anne-Marie Karpoff (president of the SFMC in 2010–2011) for her involvement in the Society. The second half of the afternoon was given over to a meeting with other French societies active in the fields of mineralogy and crystallography. They were invited to describe their organizations and activities in order to improve our mutual relationships and evaluate the possibility of organizing collective events in the future. The participating societies were the Groupe Français des Argiles (F. Villieras), the Association Française de l'Adsorption (B. Coasne), the Groupe Français des Zéolithes (F. Thibault-Strazyk), the Société Géologique de France (P. Barbey), the Association Française de Cristallographie (R. Guinebretière) and the Société de l'Industrie Minérale" (G. Trolly and C. Grambin). The day ended with a visit to the mineral collection of the university, under the guidance of J. C. Boulliard, curator.



Anne-Marie Karpoff receiving the SFMC Medal from Bruno Goffé

### MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

#### TEM in mineralogy 2012: Graduate and PhD Course from the SFMC



The second school on the theme "Transmission Electron Microscopy in Mineralogy" organized by the SFMC will be held at the University of Lille in November 2012. The main aspects of TEM techniques (conventional and high-resolution imaging, diffraction, spectroscopy and chemical analysis) will be covered by the course, which will feature practical sessions, simulations and worked examples. Short courses will add theoretical support to the experiments, analysis and interpretation.

The number of participants is limited to 12. The school will interest graduate students, post-docs and researchers. For more information and registration, go to <http://umet.univ-lille1.fr/Animation/MinTem.php>.