



Association of Applied Geochemists

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bob Eppinger

By the time you read this message, the 26th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS) will have taken place in Rotorua, New Zealand. Highlights of the meeting will come out in an early-2014 edition of the Association of Applied Geochemists' (AAG) *EXPLORE* newsletter, available for free download at our website, www.appliedgeochemists.org/. The IAGS is the flagship meeting of the AAG. Hallmarks of this meeting, which has been held biennially for many decades, are not only the excellent talks, posters, and workshops but also the associated field trips and varied spousal programs. The following (27th) IAGS, as announced in Rotorua, will be held in Tucson, Arizona, USA, in April 2015. Early indications are that this meeting will include a 7-day field trip by whitewater raft down the Grand Canyon, specifically designed for and led by geologists. Having floated the Grand Canyon a dozen times personally, this is a trip that I highly recommend!

The AAG presidency is held for two years, and my term ends this month, so this is my last President's Message. With each of my *Elements* messages, I have tried to capture some of the flavor and opportunities offered by AAG to professionals and students of geochemistry. Our members are a dynamic group of applied geochemists from around the world with whom I am proud to be associated. If you are not a member, please accept my invitation to join the Association. I want to thank Patrice de Caritat, our society news editor for *Elements*, for keeping me on track and for presenting full and varied content with each issue. It has been a pleasure working with Patrice and communicating our message to you. And with this final message of 2013, I hand the reins over to Matthew Leybourne, our AAG president for 2014–2015.

Bob Eppinger (eppinger@usgs.gov)
U.S. Geological Survey, AAG President

AAG GOLD AND SILVER MEDAL WINNERS

The AAG's Gold Medal recognises outstanding scientific achievement in applied geochemistry, and its Silver Medal acknowledges dedicated service to the Association. At the International Applied Geochemistry Symposium held in November 2013 in Rotorua, New Zealand, two Gold Medals and one Silver Medal were conferred.



Eric L. Hoffman

Eric L. Hoffman built on early academic achievements to found and grow Actlabs, an internationally based laboratory business. During the last 35 years he has been responsible for the development of a variety of analytical techniques in response to the needs of the exploration industry, in particular where more traditional approaches were unsuitable. The Association's Gold Medal recognises Eric's commitment to applied geochemistry and the contributions he has made to mineral exploration.



Clemens Reimann

Through its Gold Medal, the AAG recognises **Clemens Reimann**, from the Norwegian Geological Survey, for the significant contributions he has made in the fields of environmental geochemistry and geostatistics. By formulating and leading major soil surveys and serving on professional organisations, he has demonstrated the ability to carry out projects across political boundaries. The methodologies he has developed, ranging from sampling and analytical protocols to the statistical treatment of data, have been adopted as benchmarks.



Gwendy E. M. Hall

The Association's Silver Medal recipient is well known for her scientific contributions during a long and distinguished career at the Geological Survey of Canada. During this time, **Gwendy E. M. Hall** has held a variety of positions in the Association, including councillor, vice president, president, and treasurer (1996–present), but this contribution is eclipsed perhaps by her creation of the Association's journal, *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis*, of which she is the founding and current editor. She is acknowledged as the repository of all things AAG, and she has been instrumental in maintaining AAG as a vibrant scientific organisation.

Paul Morris (paul.morris@dmp.wa.gov.au)
Geological Survey of Western Australia
AAG Awards and Medals Committee Chair

RECENT ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN *EXPLORE*

ROMY MATTHIES (2013) Application of heavy stable isotopes to explain (bio)geochemical processes occurring during the formation, transport and remediation of metalliferous mine waters. *EXPLORE* 160 (September 2013)

Our understanding of many (bio)geochemical processes concerning the formation, transport and remediation of metalliferous mine waters is incomplete. These knowledge gaps may have potentially detrimental impacts on: (1) the way we store mine wastes; (2) the methods we apply to prevent the formation of mine drainage; and (3) the techniques we choose to remediate them. It is therefore critical to combine established monitoring and analytical methods with emerging techniques. One of these, multicollector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry for the analysis of heavy stable isotopes (HSI), is presented here. The growing number of studies applying HSI in mine water research is improving our understanding on critical processes that were difficult to address previously.

Romy Matthies (romy.matthies2@ncl.ac.uk)