



Geochemical Society

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2023 GS AWARDS

V.M. Goldschmidt Award



Roberta L. Rudnick, Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara (USA), will receive the 2023 Victor Moritz Goldschmidt Award this July. The Goldschmidt Award is the society's highest honor, presented annually for major achievements in geochemistry over a career. Prof. Rudnick is recognized for her contributions to understanding the composition, origin, and evolution of the continents and lithospheric mantle and developing Li isotope geochemistry.

VICTOR MORITZ GOLDSCHMIDT (1888–1947) was a chemist who is considered to be the founder of modern geochemistry and crystal chemistry. He developed the Goldschmidt Classification of elements and worked for many years at the University of Oslo, Norway. The society has presented a medal in his honor since 1972.

Alfred Treibs Award



Shucheng Xie, Professor of Geobiology at the China University of Geosciences, will receive the 2023 Alfred Treibs Award. Presented by the society's Organic Geochemistry Division, the award is given for major achievements, over a period of years, in organic geochemistry. Prof. Xie is recognized for pioneering studies on geolipids for paleoclimate research; developing applications to stalagmites, paleosols, and marine sediments; and expanding knowledge of microbial activity during major evolutionary and mass extinction events in Earth history.

ALFRED TREIBS (1899–1983) wrote classic papers on porphyrins that marked the starting point of organic geochemistry. The society has presented an award in his honor since 1979.

C.C. Patterson Award



Myrna J. Simpson will receive the 2023 Clair C. Patterson Award, which recognizes an innovative breakthrough in environmental geochemistry of fundamental significance within the last decade, particularly in service to society. Dr. Simpson is a Professor of Environmental Chemistry at the University of Toronto (Canada), Associate Director of the Environmental NMR Centre, and the Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Integrative Molecular Biogeochemistry. She is recognized for work that has reshaped our understanding of the fate of pollutants and anthropogenic impacts on biogeochemical cycling in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

CLAIR C. PATTERSON (1922–1995) developed the uranium–lead dating method. Using lead and uranium isotopic data from the Canyon Diablo meteorite, he calculated an age for the Earth of 4.55 billion years. This figure was far more accurate than those that existed at the time and has remained unchanged for over 60 years. Patterson also made enormous contributions to the understanding of lead's role as an environmental contaminant and its subsequent elimination from many products.

F.W. Clarke Award



Sarah Aarons, an Assistant Professor at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (USA), will receive the 2023 F.W. Clarke Award this July. The Clarke Award honors a single outstanding contribution to geochemistry or cosmochemistry by an early-career scientist. Dr. Aarons is recognized for using novel applications of radiogenic and non-traditional stable isotope systematics to identify dust sources in dust traps and ice cores, understand mineral fractionation associated with dust transport, and unravel the processes responsible for crustal generation at the Hadean/Archean transition.

FRANK WIGGLESWORTH CLARKE (1847–1931) was a chemist who determined the composition of the Earth's crust. He taught chemistry and physics at the University of Cincinnati (USA) and served with the U.S. Geological Survey for many years. He also collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution on atomic weight research. The society established the award in his name in 1972.

John Hayes Award



Boswell Wing, an Associate Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder (USA), will receive the 2022 John Hayes Award from the GS. This award is given to a mid-career scientist for outstanding accomplishments that draw together multiple fields of investigation to advance biogeochemical science. It was created in 2017 by the Organic Geochemistry Division and a group of friends, colleagues, and students of John Hayes. Prof. Wing is recognized for his contributions to science and mentorship at the intersection of isotopic geochemistry, microbiology, and studies of Earth's fluid envelope that have shaped the fabric of our knowledge of Earth as a biogeochemical system. Presentation of the 2022 award was delayed following the pandemic.



Asmeret Asefaw Berhe will receive the 2023 John Hayes Award from the Organic Geochemistry Division. Dr. Berhe is on leave from her position at the University of California, Merced (USA) to serve as Director of the DOE Office of Science. She is recognized for contributions to our understanding of the dynamics of carbon transport and stabilization in soils, from molecular to watershed scales. Her research has transformed our conceptual model of terrestrial carbon cycling by incorporating a landscape perspective, specifically geomorphology and hillslope processes, into biogeochemical studies.