

# The Clay Minerals Society

[www.clays.org](http://www.clays.org)

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As we celebrate the close of 2025 and look ahead to the opportunities of 2026, it's a fitting moment to reflect on the vital role clay science plays in shaping society, advancing civilization, and contributing to the future of humanity. This field—rich in interdisciplinary collaboration and rooted in the study of tiny particles—offers profound insights and practical applications. But how can we strengthen our community and inspire the next generation to join us?

Let's work together to make clay science more visible and accessible. I encourage all members and readers of *Elements* to reach out to those who use clays and related materials—whether in research, industry, or education—and share the many opportunities our society offers: annual conferences, journal, awards, student travel and research grants, the Reynolds Cup contest, extensive glossary of clay science, and access to source clays through CMS. Invite them to become part of our community, and remind them that student membership is free.

The 2026 CMS Annual Meeting will be held in Provo, Utah, USA, and organizers are currently accepting proposals for technical sessions. I urge you and your colleagues to submit your ideas by the December 15 deadline: <https://clayconferences.org/clay-minerals-society-2026-meeting/>.

In addition, nominations and applications are now open for several prestigious honors and funding opportunities:

- CMS Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award
- George W. Brindley Clay Science Lecture Award
- Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-career Clay Scientist Award
- Student travel and research grants
- Reynolds Cup Contest

Let's continue to build a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking clay science community. Wishing you a joyful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing many of you in person this July in Provo!

Warm regards,

**Youjun Deng**, CMS President

## JOURNAL ISSUE UPDATE

We are pleased to share the latest accepted manuscripts from *Clays & Clay Minerals*. These recently published articles highlight new research advances in clay science, mineralogy, and applications, and will appear in upcoming issues of the journal.

- Thermal and rheological characterisation of mixed inorganic/organic natural hydrogels to be used in physical medical treatments, by Rosanna Palumbo, Raquel Barbosa, Felisa Cilurzo, Christian Celia, Luisa Di Marzio, Rita Sánchez-Espejo, Pilar Cerezo, César Viseras
- Effect of acid concentration and reaction time on structural and surface properties of waste mica, by M. Navya and S. Sandeep
- Intercalation of the natural pigments, betalains, in a Tunisian smectitic clay: a green synthesis, by Amira Amraoui, Safa Gamoudi, Maria Jesus Periago Caston, Ezzeddine Srasra, George E. Christidis
- A machine learning technique for estimating the zeta potential of clay minerals under various brine conditions, by Yanqi Huang, Ayat Hussein Adhab, Vicky Jain, Abhinav Kumar, Roopashree R., Aditya Kashyap, Suman Saini, Pushpa Negi Bhakuni, Morug Salih Mahdi, Aseel Salah Mansoor, Usama Kadem Radi, Nasr Saadoun Abd, Mamurakhon Toshpulatova, Mehrdad Mottaghi

- Exploring the effect of degrees of hydration on the stress-strain response of Ca-montmorillonite, by Yidan Zhang, Quan Shen, Yuan Yan

## STUDENT AWARD 2025 SPOTLIGHTS

Following our ongoing series of student spotlights featured in previous issues, we are pleased to highlight Oladele Segun Olanbani from The Pennsylvania State University, USA, a recipient of the 2025 Student Research Grant.



**Oladele Segun Olanbani** is advancing the field of process mineralogy through his research on lithium-bearing claystone deposits. His work focuses on detailed mineral characterization using a suite of analytical techniques and the element-to-mineral conversion methodology to accurately determine mineralogical composition and identify the specific mineral hosts of lithium.

Segun aims to establish a robust workflow for analyzing clay-hosted lithium deposits, contributing to the development of efficient beneficiation processes for lithium recovery. Supported by a CMS research grant, his study will also enhance scientific understanding of the mineral phases, textures, elemental distribution, grain size, and liberation characteristics of lithium-bearing minerals. These are critical insights for the sustainable extraction of this strategic resource.

## SAVE THE DATE! CMS ANNUAL MEETING 2026

The 63<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Clay Minerals Society will be held at Brigham Young University (BYU), which is located in Provo, Utah, USA, on the front of the strikingly beautiful Wasatch Mountains. The immediate area is also the home of some fascinating halloysite and other clay deposits. Keep your eye on <https://clayconferences.org/>.



## JOIN CMS!

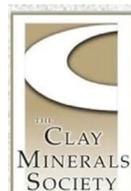
Join us with new types of membership! Please visit <http://www.clays.org> or contact the Business Office at [cms@clays.org](mailto:cms@clays.org).

And do not miss being part of our community on CMS social platforms:

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-clay-minerals-society>

X: <https://x.com/ClayMinSociety>

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## Do you know? FROM CMS HISTORY

The Clay Minerals Society was incorporated as a non-profit organisation on July 18, 1962, in Washington, D.C. Membership became open to individuals on September 30, 1963, and within just one year, CMS grew to more than 500 members!