DMG Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft

German Mineralogical Society

www.dmg-home.org

DORIS SCHACHNER MEDAL TO FRIEDHELM VON BLANCKENBURG

The DMG awards the Doris Schachner Medal 2025 to Prof. Dr. Friedhelm von Blanckenburg in appreciation of his outstanding contributions to promoting the recognition and public perception of mineralogy in German-speaking countries.

Photo: Heinrich Hecht, GFZ.

Friedhelm von Blanckenburg studied geology and paleontology with a focus on petrology at the Technical University of Berlin. He completed his doctorate at ETH Zürich, Switzerland, on the topic of "Isotope geochemical and geochronological case studies of Alpine magmatism and metamorphism: The Bergell intrusion and the Tauern Window." This laid the foundation for his passion for isotope geochemistry. He held postdoc positions at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford (UK) before returning to Switzerland as a university assistant and lecturer at the University of Bern, where he completed his habilitation. His scientific interest had already turned to topics in geochemistry that lay outside of traditional geo-research, namely the application of new isotope tracers to determine the residence time of elements in seawater. He continued this work as a professor of geochemistry at Leibniz University in Hanover.

The determination of weathering and erosion rates using cosmogenic nuclides was his primary research topic. He was also interested in developing new methods for the precise determination of isotopic ratios of previously underutilized elements such as Mo, Cr, Fe, and Si. From Hanover, he moved to Potsdam to join the German Research Centre for Geosciences, where he also held a professorship at Freie Universität Berlin. At the GFZ, he headed the Earth's Surface Geochemistry section; he currently leads this research group at Freie Universität. During his time at the GFZ and now at Freie Universität, he has become increasingly interested in the biological aspect of research of the Earth system.

As a member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the Academia Europaea, and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Friedhelm von Blanckenburg played a key role in the 2022 future report "Earth System Science - Research for a Changing Earth," which developed strategies as a framework for Earth system science to strengthen the capabilities of the geosciences through appropriate structural and content-related measures.

For three years, he served as Principal Editor of Geochemistry for the joint-society journal, *Elements*, which enjoys a wide international circulation and high reputation. He has also represented the DMG internationally and made a significant contribution to the reputation of our society.

In 2021–2022, he served as Chairman of the DMG and, thus, on the board of the umbrella organization of geoscientific associations. During this time, he devoted particular attention to the integration of the geoscientific associations in Germany, while always emphasizing the crystallographic and materials science aspect of mineralogy. To address current scientific and societal challenges, he initiated the publication of the "White Paper: Future Research in the Geosciences" with a vision for the future of geoscientific research. With his initiative to establish a Working Group on Collaborative Projects within the umbrella organization of geosciences, he was particularly committed to the integration of mineralogy into projects designed to solve challenging questions in modern geosciences. A particular concern of his was the integration of all mineralogical disciplines, especially the materials science aspects of mineralogy for the energy transition. From a specialized geochemist who acquired his scientific foundations in the fields of geology, paleontology, and petrology, he has developed into a scientist with a great vision for the broader context.

Another special achievement is his commitment to making mineralogical topics visible to the broader public. He has presented the results of his research in scientific films, often with a humorous wink. He appeared on the well-known 3Sat science program, "Bei Scobel" on the topic of the Anthropocene, representing mineralogical sciences there as well.

The German Mineralogical Society honors Prof. Dr. Friedhelm von Blanckenburg with the Doris Schachner Medal for his contributions to the recognition of mineralogy in scientific societies and academies. Through his commitment, he has rendered outstanding service to mineralogy's contributions to the pressing issues related to climate-related challenges. Furthermore, he has raised mineralogical topics to a broader public's attention.

Gerhard Franz (TU Berlin)

DMG SECTION MEETING 2025

Geochemistry and Petrology/Petrophysics

This year's DMG section meeting for the fields of Geochemistry and Petrology/Petrophysics invited scientists from all over Germany to the GFZ Helmholtz Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam on June 6–7. Once again this year, the focus was on exchange, especially for young scientists (master's students, doctoral students, and postdocs). The meeting was organized primarily by Hella Wittmann-Oelze (GFZ), Max Wilke (University of Potsdam), and Katharina Zergiebel (GFZ).

On June 6, all participants gathered for the official welcome by the organizers, followed by "geochemical" presentations on cation exchange processes, denudation rates with $^{10}Be/^{9}Be$ in carbonates, and Hf-Nd isotopic systematics in mafic rocks. During the following poster session with exciting discussions, master's and doctoral students got the opportunity to present their research results. The day ended with a barbecue, offering another great opportunity for networking.

Group photo in front of Building G of the GFZ.

The next day, there were further presentations on sulphide precipitation, gold deposits in the Himalayas, various applications of zircons, rock deformation by metamorphism and fluid–rock interaction, and ocean island volcanism. After a sunny lunch break, studies on high-pressure experiments, thermal conductivity of mantle minerals, and geochemistry of lithospheric fluids were presented.

The meeting was closed with the award ceremony for the best posters and oral presentation. We congratulate Sophie Rose (FU Berlin, MSc student) and Adrien Folch (GFZ Potsdam, doctoral student) for the best posters and Candice Filoche (GFZ Potsdam, doctoral student) for the best oral presentation on sulphide precipitation pathways in the Teena Zn-Pb deposit (McArthur Basin, Australia).

We would like to thank the organizers and helpers, without whom this meeting would not have been possible. Thanks also to all DMG members who attended for inspiring talks and discussions. The next meeting of the DMG Geochemistry and Petrology/Petrophysics sections will take place on June 12 and 13, 2026 at the University of Potsdam.

Clara Geneste (FU Berlin) and **Henri Paul Meinaß** (TU Darmstadt)

ANNUAL DMG MEETING 2026

OPEN DMG WORKSHOP IN CRYSTALLOGRAPHY AND APPLIED MINERALOGY

Save the Date! In spring 2026, the two sections "Applied Mineralogy" and "Crystallography" will organize their joint workshop, which will take place on **11–13 March 2026** in **Bad Windsheim** between Nuremberg and Würzburg.

"Applied Mineralogy" and "Crystallography" cover a broad spectrum of innovative issues. We hereby call for contributions from participants in the form of presentations. The active and priority participation of young scientists is expressly desired. Current scientific developments within the framework of our sections should be presented through contributions from ongoing or recently completed projects, as well as bachelor's, master's and doctoral theses. The workshop should be seen as a platform where ideas and work that are not yet fully developed can also be presented.

We ask for contributions from all areas of applied mineralogy and crystallography to be registered by email by **January 15th 2026**. The presentation time for normal contributions should not exceed 20 minutes including discussion. Short contributions are also welcome, which can pose pointed questions/problems from current work to the auditorium in a question and answer session. Participation in the workshop is also possible without registering a contribution.

Coffee breaks and meals during the workshop will round off the sociable exchange on current developments. The workshop will be as informal as possible, leaving plenty of time for discussion.

Some Organizational Details

Venue & Accommodation: Hotel Am Kurpark – Familie Späth, Oberntiefer Straße 40, 91428 Bad Windsheim, see https://www.hotel-spaeth.de/hotel-bad-windsheim.html.

Costs for the workshop (including two overnight stays with breakfast as well as coffee break and dinner on Wednesday, full board on Thursday, lunch on Friday, coffee breaks incl. pastries/cake during the workshop and conference drinks in the seminar room): Overnight stay in a **single room € 316.50** (incl. VAT). Overnight stay in a **double room € 255.00** (incl. VAT). **The hotel will be paid by each participant directly at the hotel.**

Bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students who are DMG members qualify for a subsidy of 100€. This also applies for students if their membership application is submitted during the workshop.

Please state the title and authors, and include a short description (about five lines) of the study to be presented. Furthermore, please indicate whether it is a thesis, a normal presentation (20 min incl. discussion), or a short presentation for the "Question Time" with approximately 10 min. including discussion. We look forward to lively participation and a successful workshop! Please register before **January 15th 2026**: **weidenthaler@mpi-muelheim.mpg.de**.

Michael Fischer, **Uta Helbig**, **Susan Schorr**, **Claudia Weidenthaler**, **Daniel Vollprecht**, and **Kerstin Hauke**

DMG SHORT COURSES 2026

DMG will support several short courses in 2026. All courses will be aimed primarily at advanced-level undergraduate and graduate students but, as always, are open to more senior researchers as well. Nonlocal student members of DMG will be eligible for travel support to the amount of € 100. Further information can be found at www.dmg-home.org/aktuelles/doktorandenkurse/.

BGI Bayerisches Geoinstitut

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DMG-Short Course/"Doktorandenkurs", February 16-20, 2026

"High-Pressure Experimental Techniques and Applications to the Earth's Interior"

This five-day short course will provide an introduction to state-of-the-art experimental methods in mineralogy, geochemistry and geophysics as applied to understanding the composition, structure and dynamics of the Earth's interior. Topics to be covered include high-pressure/high-temperature experimental methods, spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction at high-pressure, transmission electron microscopy, thermodynamics and phase equilibria, high-pressure crystal chemistry, equations of state, transformation kinetics, diffusion and deformation. The course will be held in the laboratories of Bayerisches Geoinstitut.

Requirements: The course is aimed primarily at advanced-level undergraduate and graduate students but is also open to postdoctoral researchers. Participants should have completed at least 7 semesters of Earth Sciences and should have a basic background in mineralogy, crystallography, petrology and/or geophysics. The number of participants is limited to 30. The official course language is English.

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): Participants may obtain 2 ECTS credit points after completion of the course and after passing a written examination. For students who do not wish to obtain an ECTS certificate, the examination is not required.

Costs: There is no fee for the course. Teaching materials and refreshments during the course are sponsored by BGI. The Short Course dinner on Tuesday night is at own expense. We will help find reasonably priced accommodation. The course receives financial support by German Mineralogical Society (Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft - DMG). Non-Bayreuth student members of DMG are eligible for travel support to the amount of Euro 100,-.

Information: Further information can be obtained from www.bgi.uni-bayreuth.de/ShortCourse2026 or www.dmg-home.org/aktuelles/doktorandenkurse/ or Dr. Florian Heidelbach, email: florian.heidelbach@uni-bayreuth.de
Tel.: +49-(0)921-553700, Fax: +49-(0)921-553769

Applications should be sent to the following address before January 7, 2026:

2026 High-Pressure Short Course
Bayerisches Geoinstitut
Universität Bayreuth
95440 Bayreuth
Germany (fax or email appreciated)

Information and application form: