



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mentor a scientist—an enriching experience

As another Goldschmidt conference comes up at Lyon, many young scientists across the globe are getting ready to put final touches to their presentations and are looking forward with anticipation to the opportunities to meet people and build bridges for the next steps in their careers. But building those bridges is as much a cultural as scientific enterprise. In that two-minute coffee break conversation with the senior scientist in my field, how do I best describe my project? People

from some cultures would suggest highlighting the large amount of data that one has collected, underscoring the hard work that has gone behind it—making big claims and not being modest. Others would tell one to focus on the big story that is emerging first to get attention—the time to describe the body of data will follow once the head is pulled. What is the right balance and how does one negotiate the cultural topography? Or, I have this great set of samples from my field area, but I do not have access to the equipment that could give me the relevant data—how do I go about securing the resources or access to get the measurements done? These are but only a few of the thoughts and dilemmas that cross those young minds as they prepare in nervous anticipation.

It is not just those young students and postdocs, there are young faculty as well who are nervous. Having finally landed a faculty job, and after a lot of struggle with proposals, the funding to acquire equipment has been obtained. The next task is to build that lab and deliver, to get tenure or a promotion or the next grant. Yet, in spite of doing everything seemingly right, the machine just will not yield the numbers, and the clock is ticking—is there help around?

All of these and more are on the minds of a large number of attendees (more than a third of typical Goldschmidt attendees are early career scientists). For those who have been dealing with such issues for years, many of the above are non-questions; yet, these are unsurmountable barriers for many scientists. The mentoring program at the conference itself helps some. But seeing the need for sustained support, the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry have jointly launched a mentorship program to help answer some of those questions for scientists, specific to geochemistry, (<https://www.geochemsoc.org/programs/mentorship-program>). For a start, the program intends to help scientists from lower- and low-middle-income countries (as defined by the World Bank). Mentors can be from anywhere.

The start has been slow for several reasons, but an important aspect has been a lack of mentors with the right expertise. If you feel you can help people navigate some of the questions above, please volunteer to be a mentor through the webpage mentioned above. You will not only help others, you will enrich yourself with experience that would be valuable for your own career track as well. In particular, if you feel you can help in the areas of pre-Cambrian geology, ore deposits, or environmental geology, we have mentees that are waiting to hear from you. The program runs throughout the year, with mentors and mentees connecting virtually to talk. Please consider signing up to join an enriching experience for yourself and the many leaders of tomorrow.

Sumit Chakraborty
GS President, 2022–2023

POSITION OPENING: EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF GCA

The Geochemical Society and the Meteoritical Society are seeking qualified candidates to serve as Executive Editor (EE) of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* (GCA). The appointment is for an initial 3-year term commencing January 1, 2025, with the possibility of an additional 3-year term by negotiation with the societies and the publisher. GCA publishes research papers that address fundamental aspects of geochemistry and cosmochemistry, as well as articles relating to key activities of the sponsoring societies. The journal receives over 1,000 new submissions per year, of which less than half are accepted for publication.

The GCA EE is responsible for and has control over the scientific content of the journal, taking into account the aims and scope of the journal, the publisher's editorial policies, and guidance from the sponsoring societies. The primary responsibilities of the EE are to oversee the editorial process, establish editorial policies for the journal, and uphold the ethical standards of our scientific community. This is accomplished by working closely with a team of Associate Editors to evaluate the scientific content and perceived impact of submitted papers. At GCA, the EE conducts an initial evaluation of manuscripts relative to the scope and standards of the journal, allocates manuscripts to Associate Editors, supervises a timely review process, and provides and defends final decisions regarding the acceptance or rejection of manuscripts.

An important additional responsibility of the EE is to identify, recruit, and nominate Associate Editors as needed to sustain the editorial demands of the journal, for approval by the societies and the publisher. There are currently over 110 Associate Editors for GCA, all of whom receive complementary membership in the Geochemical Society. Further, the EE is a member of the board of directors of the Geochemical Society and is expected to participate in all activities of the board. The EE also presents an overview of the state of the journal at the annual meetings of both societies.

The EE is expected to hold a permanent position at an academic or research institution throughout the duration of the editorship. The EE may not serve as an editor-in-chief of any other journal while in the role with GCA but is allowed to serve on other editorial boards. This position requires an estimated time commitment of at least 15 hours per week, although this may vary throughout the year and with editorial approach. The EE is nominated by the societies to the journal's publisher, Elsevier, who provides assistance and support in the regular operations of the journal. Financial support, typically in the form of an honorarium, is available from the publisher.

To be considered, candidates must have scientific expertise in a relevant field, experience as an associate or executive editor, and a good working knowledge of written English. Interested candidates should send a CV, including a list of publications, and a cover letter detailing previous editorial experience and why they are interested in being the GCA EE to gca@geochemsoc.org. Inquiries about the position may also be sent to this address. Consideration of applicants will begin October 1 and continue until the position is filled. The societies and Elsevier are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in hiring.