

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and friends,

The 2023 DMG conference will be held as a joint meeting with the Austrian and Slovakian mineralogical societies in Vienna in September. The meeting thus returns to the Austrian capital on the Danube for the fifth time after 1913, 1963, 1981, and 1999. Reports and memories from the last joint meeting in 1999 paint a picture of a time of change from the traditional gentlemen's

club gathering of the post-war era to the modern scientific conferences we like to join today. At the turn of the century, most talks were still presented in German – despite the fact that the meeting was co-hosted by the Hungarian MFT and that many of the 520 attendees came from non-German speaking countries. Mounted slides and overhead transparencies were the dominant presentation technologies of the time. All of that changed within a couple of years in the early 2000s and English has since been established as the language of the DMG conferences. As a result, a growing number of participants from the European neighbourhood now join the annual DMG meetings; and of course English is also the official language of MinWien2023.

The meeting may in some parts be in competition with other science conferences in Europe this summer, such as the EMPG-Meeting in Milan, the Goldschmidt Conference in Lyon, or the GeoBerlin Meeting of the DGGV; yet this competition only applies to the geoscience-focused domains of mineralogy. Applied and technical mineralogists and crystallographers will find that MinWien2023 is a unique opportunity for the presentation and exchange of the latest scientific discoveries in their respective fields. Nonetheless, MinWien2023 will offer a venue for the full breadth of the mineralogical sciences, including geochemistry, petrology, and all areas of geoscientific mineralogy.

Apart from the expected academic exchange, Vienna and the local organising committee will also take care of the cultural and culinary program to make MinWien2023 an enjoyable and exciting experience. If the faint memories of the 1999 Gumpoldskirchen wine extravaganza can serve as a reference, MinWien2023 promises to become an extraordinary networking opportunity for mineralogists of all flavours and career stages. See you all in Vienna!

Yours sincerely,

**Horst Marschall**

### THE YOUNGMINS KICK-OFF WEEKEND AT THE NATURFREUNDEHAUS HANNOVER

On the weekend of 9–11 June, the first workshop of the DMG YoungMins junior group, the kick-off meeting, took place in Hannover, Germany under the motto “Gain new members and ideas.” During the three-day workshop, young mineralogists from different career stages and universities exchanged ideas about career paths, networks, and the scientific future. They also discussed which goals the YoungMins group would like to pursue and expand in the future.

After a cosy and relaxed get-together on Friday evening, the productive brainstorming started on Saturday morning. In the afternoon, the groups generated ideas and developed concrete solutions for the five main topics: networking, outreach, perspectives, events, and career paths. For example, in the future, cooperation in creating young professional programs for the respective conferences should increase. Intensive work will also be undertaken to further develop the group and recruit new members. The exchange between the young researchers has helped to strengthen and motivate the YoungMins group. The number



Participants of the kick-off meeting in the garden of the Naturfreundehaus in Hannover, Germany. (PHOTO: L. CZEKAY)

of active junior researcher members who want to help shape the group's offerings and further development has increased. In addition, a chairperson (Laura Czekay, Bayerisches Geoinstitut, Bayreuth) and a deputy chairperson (Paul Krause, Deutsches Bergbau-Museum, Bochum) of the working group have been appointed and will be available as points of contact in the future.

Another very important topic on Saturday was the visibility and safety of young women in research, where it became clear that a great need to talk about this exists in the geosciences, as well as across disciplines, and that this will continue to be part of our work in the future. In general, we want to create a safe space for all students and young academics to communicate and support each other. For this purpose, we aim to create a separate mailing list for students and early career researchers, which will run parallel to the current DMG mailing list. This list will be used to send out events and job offers specifically for young researchers.

On Saturday evening, we used the barbecue for exchange, sport, and networking, and after a leisurely breakfast on Sunday morning, we reviewed Saturday and collected feedback. It turned out that our outreach is still very small as many participants found out about our meeting late and not via social media. On a positive note, however, it was a great relief to hold the workshop in English as, fortunately, international mineralogists also attended.

Finally, I would like to thank the DMG for their support in organising this weekend and the participants for their openness and active participation. We were very pleased with the level of participation. Another meeting is planned for next year and will be announced a few months in advance. In the meantime, monthly online meetings of the working group are planned. The next online meeting is on 26 July at 20:00. Anyone who wants to join is always welcome! Whatever your professional status, get in touch at [YoungMins@dmg-home.org](mailto:YoungMins@dmg-home.org).

### Up to date

The YoungMins will be present at MinWien23 on Sunday, 17 Sept 2023, from 15:00 to 16:00 at the “Young Scientists Meet Each Other” event and will organise a Young Scientists Session for all young scientists from the fields of mineralogy, petrology, or related disciplines.

**Laura Czekay** (Bayerisches Geoinstitut, Bayreuth)

### VICTOR MORITZ GOLDSCHMIDT PRIZE 2023 TO BENJAMIN WALTER



With the Victor Moritz Goldschmidt Prize, the German Mineralogical Society honours young scientists for particularly important research from the previous five years. In 2023, Dr. Benjamin Walter will receive this prestigious prize for his outstanding contributions to the mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry of ore deposits both in hydrothermal vein-type and in carbonatite-related magmatic settings. Benjamin Walter studied geosciences at the Eberhard Karls

University of Tübingen, Germany, where he also completed his PhD in 2016 and a first Postdoc in the EU-funded Hightech AlkCarb project in our group. While his PhD resulted in a wealth of new, fundamental perceptions about the connection of tectonics, fluid flow, and hydrothermal ore deposition in the Schwarzwald region in southwestern Germany (which borders the Upper Rhine graben), the EU-funded project allowed him to enter the field of magmatic petrology and HFSE-mineralisations in the Kaiserstuhl volcanic complex, also in southwestern Germany. Among other results, he published important work (together with Matthew Steel-McInness) on carbonatitic fluids, which is considered the state-of-the-art concerning these complex carbohydrothermal solutions. After leaving Tübingen, he became assistant professor at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), also in Germany, and started a series of projects with various PhD students on carbonatites of Southern Africa (Republic of South Africa and Namibia), which are about to appear in international publications.

So far, Benjamin Walter has published 40 peer-reviewed international journal articles and is first author for more than one third of them. Only seven years after earning his PhD, he has an h-factor of 20 and is widely cited—more than 1000 times so far. Furthermore, he has managed not only to follow his own ideas and projects, but to acquire an in-depth understanding of various analytical techniques, such as fluid inclusion analyses. Especially the latter has allowed him to collaborate in projects with scientists from other institutions. One of his strengths is that he has always been curious and open to such collaborations. Additionally, he successfully acquired third-party funding from the German Science Foundation (DFG).

Because of his outstanding performance and future potential, combined with his friendly and helpful personality, Dr. Benjamin Walter is a worthy recipient of this year's Victor Moritz Goldschmidt Prize of the DMG.

**Gregor Markl and Michael Marks**  
Universität Tübingen (Germany)

### DMG SECTION MEETING GEOCHEMISTRY AND PETROLOGY/PETROPHYSICS

The DMG Section Meeting Geochemistry and Petrology/Petrophysics was held on 2 and 3 June at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, hosted by the Bavarian Geoinstitute (BGI). The event was jointly organised by Audrey Bouvier (Bayreuth), Esther Schwarzenbach (Fribourg, Switzerland), Matthias Willbold (Göttingen), and Roman Botcharnikov (Mainz). This meeting was a unique opportunity for early-career researchers to discuss their work in a relaxed environment, with most of the presenters being either master or doctoral students. The first day of the meeting started with a guided tour of the BGI facilities, and continued in the afternoon with oral and poster sessions. The first two oral sessions focused on the origins of the highly alkaline and carbonatitic magmatism, combining observations from natural samples with results of experimental studies. The third oral session discussed formation of ore deposits and the re-distribution of phosphorous and volatile elements by deep Earth processes.



Participants of the DMG section meeting in front of the Bavarian Research Institute of Experimental Geochemistry and Geophysics (BGI) at the University of Bayreuth (PHOTO: F. HEIDELBACH)

We concluded the first day over a lengthy poster session and BBQ. The posters displayed exciting preliminary results from studies covering a broad range of disciplines. The remaining oral presentations were held on the second day, which began with a series of talks about sulfide ore deposits and sulphide occurrences in meteorites. The final two sessions were dedicated to recent advances in analytical and experimental methods. We closed the meeting with student awards. The talk by Jie Xu (Goethe University Frankfurt) won the best oral presentation award, while second and third place went to Benjamin Möller (University of Tübingen) and Antonia Simon (Mainz University), respectively. The best poster was awarded to Ran Zhao (University of Bayreuth). We owe many thanks to BGI staff members, who welcomed us with a BBQ and had actively participated in organising the event. Looking forward to next year!

**Marija Putak Juricek** (Göttingen) and **Elisa Winkes** (Mainz)