



International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

IAG LECTURE AND NETWORKING INITIATIVE

The International Association of Geoanalysts (IAG) has launched a new initiative to promote networking and knowledge transfer between laboratories operated by IAG members and those universities and research institutes that might benefit from contact with high-end analytical technology. The IAG Lecture and Networking Award enables a senior scientist selected by the IAG to interact with institutions generally underrepresented at international meetings and interested in hosting visiting scholars. Throughout a series of on-site lectures and/or short courses, participants have an opportunity to learn about a specific analytical technique, its applications in the geosciences, and discuss ideas about future collaborations.

In March 2023, the IAG Lecture and Networking Initiative enabled Dr. Michael Wiedenbeck, head of the Potsdam secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) facility in Germany, to connect with scientists in four South American countries. There, he learned firsthand about his hosts' research initiatives. Dr. Wiedenbeck visited nine institutions across Colombia, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil, where he presented nine seminars and two single-day short courses over a period of three weeks. Meetings with students and scientists were filled with in-depth discussions about the SIMS analytical technique and possible collaborative project ideas. This has already led to at least three projects being developed that would involve students or faculty members collaborating directly with the Potsdam facility.



Dr. Michael Wiedenbeck giving a seminar at the University of Brasília, Brazil. PHOTO: ROBERTO SANTOS.

During his visit to South America, Dr. Wiedenbeck also received a variety of minerals that might prove suitable for further development into microanalytical reference materials: a core activity both of his laboratory and of the IAG. Five such materials have already been submitted for initial testing in Potsdam, and joint publications are expected to follow.

After this highly successful lecture and networking tour, the IAG Council voted to continue this initiative into the future, thereby supporting the professional needs of those involved in the analysis of geological and environmental materials across all continents.



Map of institutions in South America visited by Dr. Wiedenbeck during his lecture tour.

IAG YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD 2023

We congratulate the two winners of the 2023 IAG Young Scientist Award, **Jing-Yao Xu**, a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics Chinese Academy of Sciences (Beijing, China), and **Ming Yang**, an assistant researcher at the Hainan Institute of Zhejiang University, China, who received their certificates for excellence in analytical geochemistry during Goldschmidt 2023, held in Lyon in July 2023. During the conference, Jing-Yao Xu and Ming Yang also presented their recent research.



Professor Jacinta Enzweiler, IAG President, presenting certificates to IAG award winners at Goldschmidt 2023 in Lyon. PHOTO: GAEL KAZAZ.

This annual award aims to promote the careers of scientists who have either developed innovative analytical methods or provided new strategies to improve data quality as applied to the chemical analysis of geological or environmental materials. The award is based on published papers where the applicants are the first author. Information on how to submit an application is available on the IAG's website (<https://www.geoanalyst.org/>); the deadline for nominations for the 2024 IAG award is 31 October 2023.