ABOUT THIS ISSUE
Extraterrestrial organic matter—organic molecules beyond our planet—sparks curiosity and fuels the search for their nature, origin, and distribution due to their importance for cosmochemistry and for life. From the dusty surfaces of asteroids and the icy realms of comets, to planetary systems being born, galaxies far away, and atmospheres of exoplanets, scientists have uncovered a cosmic cocktail of carbon-based compounds. These extraterrestrial molecules, akin to the very essence of life on Earth, serve as enchanting hints that the building blocks of life may not be exclusive to our planet. Meteorites, cosmic dust, and other planetary samples carry the fingerprints of “out of this world” organic chemistry, which are, in a sense, cosmic secrets encoded in carbon compounds. As telescopes peer into distant locations and space rovers explore different landscapes, the quest for the origin of organic matter, building blocks of life, intensifies. Analytical developments and access to some of the most pristine organic-rich planetary samples are driving scientists into new frontiers. Thus, more groundbreaking revelations are inevitable.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF ELEMENTS—GET INVOLVED!
Happy New Year, Elements readers!

We are thrilled to bring you Elements’ 20th volume of six fascinating and fundamental thematic issues within the geosciences, starting with “Extraterrestrial Organic Matter”. Whether this Elements issue is your 1st or 114th, we hope that you and your colleagues will enjoy and intellectually benefit from this creatively crafted presentation of review papers, authored by leading experts in the field.

SOLICITING GUEST EDITORS FOR THEMATIC ISSUES
Designing your own Elements issue is a rewarding career milestone. We enthusiastically encourage you to begin this process and make a lasting contribution to the geoscience literature by submitting a thematic proposal or contacting the Editorial Board to discuss your ideas. Elements themes should generally fulfill the following criteria:

■ broadly related to mineralogy, geochemistry, and petrology
■ interdisciplinary
■ represent established but progressing fields
■ interesting to a broad cross section of readers
■ have not been adequately represented by Elements before or have advanced considerably since the topic was previously covered

Proposals are reviewed twice per year, with regular annual deadlines of February 25 and August 25. Each proposal is carefully evaluated for thematic scope, content, and authorship. Feedback is then provided to the proposers. Please visit https://elementsmagazine.org/publish-in-elements/ for more information. We look forward to welcoming you to the Elements team of editors and bringing your thematic issue to publication!

SOLICITING AUTHORS FOR FEATURE COLUMNS
Alongside our thematic content and society news items, Elements regularly publishes short (1- to 2-page) feature columns on topics of general interest to the mineralogy–geochemistry–petrology community.

Do you have an idea that would make a great feature column?
Check out the general category descriptions below and visit the Article Archive on Elements’ website to peruse past columns. The next step is to contact the Editorial Team (editor@elementsmagazine.org) with your idea and/or submit a draft article.

The future of Elements issues is in your hands. We look forward to hearing from you!

Mineralogy Matters highlights where mineralogy (broadly defined) is of fundamental importance to understanding an issue or a problem in topic areas that can range from Earth resources to the global environment.

FROM THE EDITORS

A sample returned from carbonaceous (C-type) asteroid Ryugu. Left: Inside a vacuum-sealed container. Right: Close-up image of the sample sitting inside the container on the left.

Triple Point raises issues of broad interest. This feature has explored different aspects of our science (e.g., teaching, publishing, historical aspects), our societies, funding, science policy, and political issues that impact us.

Life in Science focuses on ways to make all stages of your career as a geoscientist (as student, professional, or retiree) easier and more satisfying.

People in the News highlights the accomplishments of members of our communities, awards they have received, or exciting new projects in which they are engaged. We rely on members to bring to our attention the relevant people.

Elements’ Toolbox presents new technological developments of interest to our readers. Articles focus on instrumental techniques, analytical and compositional methods, as well as on laboratory design.

Teaching Mineralogy, Geochemistry, and Petrology presents ideas and tools for effective teaching and the resources that are available to instructors. With recent demand for online instructional tools, such a column is more important than ever!

CosmoELEMENTS keeps us in touch with exciting discoveries in cosmochemistry by providing short articles, which can be used in the classroom, or reports on space missions that carry geochemical and mineralogical instruments. Contact Cari Corrigan (corrigan@si.edu).

Elements Heritage preserves the history of individuals who contributed to the development of the fields of mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry. These articles are not solely focused on scientific contributions, but also on their personal story, details that capture the “human” aspect behind the scientist.

Parting Shots, always placed at the end of the magazine, provides a lighter contrast to the serious stuff in the earlier pages. Intriguing, beautiful, or baffling photographs take the reader on a relaxing voyage into the web of connections that make the realm of Elements so enthralling.

GeoScience Slam is a unique corner for creative arts related to geoscience. We welcome your geo-inspired poetry/prose (<2000 words) or art-work. Don’t be shy! This feature is a fitting place for your artistic talents.

Meeting Calendar is a list of workshops, short courses, and conferences that are of interest to the mineralogy–geochemistry–petrology community. Contact Andrea Koziol (akozio11@udayton.edu) to add your meeting to the list.

Becky Lange, Janne Blichert-Toft, Sumit Chakraborty, Tom Sisson, and Esther Posner