Geochemical Society

www.geochemsoc.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! I am excited to begin my term as Geochemical Society president. With the new year 2024 upon us and Goldschmidt in Chicago this year, I want to reflect on all that we have come through in the past couple of years.

Outgoing President Sumit Chakraborty guided us through the first hybrid Goldschmidt in 2022. Past President Vickie Bennett guided us through the first virtual Goldschmidt in 2020, which was one of the first virtual meetings in our field. I would like to thank them both for their leadership, particularly under the duress of Covid, that guided our society and the rapid evolution of scientific meetings from all in-person, to virtual, and then hybrid. These leaps would not have been possible without the stewardship of our executive director, Kevin Johnson. I welcome Dominique Weis as our new Vice President and our new board members. I look forward to working with all of them in the coming months to guide the GS and Goldschmidt meetings into the future.

The pivot to virtual meetings during the pandemic opened a completely new version of science meetings. The return to in-person meetings with a virtual component, known as hybrid, has further expanded the options for how we can share our science with one another. The hybrid format provides opportunities for those who cannot readily travel to present their own and view the science of others. The hybrid landscape is still evolving as our community takes advantage of the format. As a climate scientist, I understand that our CO_2 footprint is a continuing cause for concern. Finding a balance of those concerns with the benefits of face-to-face interactions across different scientific disciplines and cultures is something we as a society and individuals will continue to reckon with. As we all find our way in this new terrain, we are finding the scientific content to be of the greatest interest to virtual attendees and are working to tailor the meeting format in response. Hybrid conferences are likely here to stay, but the details of the format they will have is still evolving.

Going forward, the GS is continuing to work to ensure our activities are aligned with the scientific interests and needs of our nearly 4,000 members. The scope of the science that our membership engages in, as represented by the sessions at our Goldschmidt, is impressive and timely. Everything from planetary chemistry and properties of the mantle and core to ground water and the changing biochemistry of coastal systems to climate science. We encourage participation and increasing opportunities for all geochemistry fields in our GS activities.

The GS has also been active in developing and promoting practices aimed at increasing the breadth of diversity in society membership, participation, and awards. We will continue to focus on achieving balance among disciplines, geography, gender, age, ethnicity, and socio-economic groups. To achieve true inclusivity, we need to continue to promote diverse participation and equity among our members.

Liz Sikes, GS President, 2024–25

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The GS has opportunities throughout the year to contribute, some with only a small commitment of time. These include serving as a mentor, as a theme chair or session organizer at Goldschmidt, or submitting an award nomination to recognize a colleague's achievements. There are also a number of opportunities to serve on society boards and committees. If you would like to take a more active role, learn about the various opportunities at geochemsoc.org/about/membership/get-involved.

NEW MEMBERS JOIN GS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Five new members joined the Geochemical Society's Board of Directors in January. They represent the diverse fields of study and geographic distribution of the society's membership. Meet the entire board of directors at www.geochemsoc.org/board.

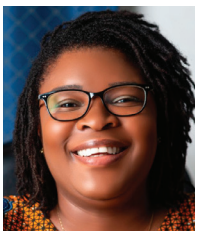
Dominique Weis will serve as vice president for two years and then as president beginning in 2026. She is a Canadian Research Chair Tier I and Killam Professor at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Her research aims to (1) determine the origin, source and distribution of heterogeneities in deep mantle plumes (e.g., Hawai'i, Kerguelen), and their variations through time; (2) apply select key geochemical tools to resolve indigenous-led questions; and (3) improve our understanding of the Earth's environment, using biomonitors such as honey or salmon to trace metal distribution and pathways in various reservoirs. Dominique is the Director of the Pacific Centre for Isotopic and Geochemical Research, a major analytical facility serving the needs of academics, government, and industry in Canada and worldwide. She has served as an editor of the *Journal of Petrology* for 15 years and of *Anthropocene* for 2 years. She is a co-chief editor of the *Treatise on Geochemistry* (3rd Edition).

Dominique served the GS in organizing the 2008 Goldschmidt Conference in Vancouver, as chair of the International Program Committee for the 2014 Goldschmidt Conference in Sacramento, and as a board member and finance committee member. She served as AGU's President of the Volcanology, Geochemistry, and Petrology section and as a member of the council leadership team. In addition to her wide research interests using various geochemical approaches, Dominique actively trains young scientists in technology transfer and the application of novel isotopic techniques for solving Earth and environmental problems.

Natasha Barrett was elected as an early career director for a two-year term. She is a postdoctoral researcher within the Mineral Deposit Research Unit (MDRU) at the University of British Columbia, Canada. She received her PhD from the University of Alberta in 2021. Her research applies PGE geochemistry, radiogenic isotopes, and thermodynamic modeling to topics within igneous and mantle petrology, planetary science, and critical metals research.

Sung Hi Choi joined the board from Region 3 for a three-year term. She is a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at Chungnam National University, South Korea. Her research interests are focused on igneous petrogenesis, evolution of the Earth lithospheric mantle, ophiolite genesis and evolution of the oceanic lithosphere, mantle dynamics, and geological record of meteorite impacts based on integrated use of mineralogy, petrography and geochemistry including Sr-Nd-Pb-Hf-Os-Mg-Zn-Li-O isotopes. She served as a member of the F.W. Clarke Award Committee of the GS from 2008 to 2011.

Anthony (Tony) Kemp also joined the board from Region 3 for a three-year term. He is an associate professor in geology and geochemistry based at the University of Western Australia. His research is focused on understanding the generation of continental crust and evolution of Earth's crust–mantle system. A recent emphasis has been on developing geochemical approaches for tracking the sources of metals and the processes by which they are transported and enriched in the lithosphere—particularly the "critical minerals" and related commodities. Tony is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America since 2018, and an associate editor for *Precambrian Research* since 2019. He has enjoyed serving as a theme chair for the Goldschmidt Conference on five occasions.



Marian Selorm Sapah also joined the board for a three-year term from Region 3. She is a lecturer and scientific researcher at the Department of Earth Science, University of Ghana. She holds a PhD in Earth chemistry from the Australia National University (2016), as well as postgraduate certificates in science communication and chemical safety. Her research interests are focused on the areas of geochemistry, environmental geochemistry, exploration geochemistry, cosmochemistry, planetary and space science, and geoscience education. Dr. Sapah is a founding member of the Africa Initiative for Planetary and Space Science (AFIPS), and a member/mentor of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC). She currently serves on the GS capacity-building grant committee, and on the editorial committee of the Ghana Institution of Geoscientists. She is an advocate for the environment and sustainability as well as for women and girls in STEM.

V. M. GOLDSCHMIDT AWARD

Donald E. Canfield, Professor and DIAS chair at Syddansk Universitet (Denmark), will receive the 2024 Victor M. Goldschmidt Award this August. The Goldschmidt Award is the society's highest honor, presented annually for major achievements in geochemistry over a career. Prof. Canfield is recognized for his reinvention of how to extrapolate sophisticated mechanistic understandings of microbial metabolisms and their elemental and isotope consequences to elevate our understanding of Earth's environmental history.

Victor Moritz Goldschmidt (1888–1947) was a chemist considered to be the founder of modern geochemistry and crystal chemistry. He developed the Goldschmidt Classification of elements and worked for many years at the University of Oslo. The society has presented a medal in his honor since 1972.

CLAIR C. PATTERSON AWARD

Satoshi Utsunomiya, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry, Kyushu University (Japan), will receive the 2024 Clair C. Patterson Award in August. The award is presented annually for an innovative breakthrough in environmental geochemistry of fundamental significance within the last decade, particularly in service to society. Prof. Utsunomiya is recognized for his creative application of advanced techniques, especially electron microscopy and spectroscopy, to the understanding of the environmental mobility of radionuclides and other elements/particles of concern. His research provides the foundation for estimates of health effects and the development of mitigation/decommissioning strategies.

Clair C. Patterson (1922–1995) developed the uranium–lead dating method. Using lead and uranium isotopic data from the Canyon Diablo meteorite, he calculated an age for the Earth of 4.55 billion years. This figure was far more accurate than those that existed at the time and it has remained unchanged for over 60 years. Patterson also made enormous contributions to the understanding of lead's role as an environmental contaminant and subsequent elimination from many products.

F. W. CLARKE AWARD

Jihua Hao, a Professor in the Department of Geochemistry and Planetary Sciences of the University of Science and Technology of China, will receive the 2024 F. W. Clarke Award this August. The Clarke Award honors a single outstanding contribution to geochemistry or cosmochemistry by an early-career scientist. Prof. Hao is recognized for his work on quantification of early Earth and planetary geochemical conditions and processes. In particular, he developed models of late Archean weathering, river-water chemistry, and the availability of phosphorous on the early Earth and Enceladus.

Frank Wigglesworth Clarke (1847–1931) was a chemist who determined the composition of the Earth's crust. He taught chemistry and physics at the University of Cincinnati and served in the U.S. Geological Survey for many years. He also collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution on atomic weight research. The society established the award in his name in 1972.