

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and friends!

Happy 2026 to all! As we have already started into another busy year, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the many exciting developments of 2025 for the German Mineralogical Society. Many members came together once again in doctoral courses, as YoungMins, at conferences and workshops, and through many other activities organized by active members, contributing to the society's vibrant life. One of the highlights for me was the conference that the DMG co-organized on the history of our society and discipline in the first half of the last century. It is worth considering how differently our "ancestors in mineralogy" responded to the challenges of their time. This raised the question for me of what we can learn from history, and how we, as mineralogists, can meet the challenges of our time in a humane and respectful way. Thank you, Horst Marschall, for initiating historical activities and for supporting and promoting so many valuable initiatives during your time as chairman and deputy chairman of the DMG. Your successful tenure as chairman has come to an end at the end of the year 2025, and Claudia Weidenthaler, a dedicated mineralogist, has been elected to succeed you on the board. Many thanks also to Ina Alt, who has supported us passionately as secretary, and congratulations to Michael Fischer, the newly elected secretary. Welcome to all those who have taken on new roles in the DMG. Thanks to everyone who has been active in the DMG over the past years, helping to shape our society. I look forward to 2026 and hope that together we will succeed in navigating the challenges of our time as members of the DMG.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Schilling

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO GERHARD FRANZ



Prof. Dr. Gerhard Franz was named an honorary member of the German Mineralogical Society (DMG) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the advancement of mineralogy through both research and teaching.

Born on 4 April 1948 in Berlin, he began his studies in geology at the University of Mainz before moving to the University of Karlsruhe to specialize in mineralogy. There, he earned his diploma in 1973 and completed his doctorate in 1976 with a dissertation entitled "Experimental investigations of solid solution formation and thermal stability of paragonite in the systems $\text{Na}_2\text{O-MgO-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{Na}_2\text{O-CaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O-CO}_2$." He subsequently joined the Technical University of Berlin as an assistant to Professor Giulio Morteani, where he focused on the stability of beryllium minerals and the metamorphism of rocks in the Tauern Window. Research fellowships later took him to Yale University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA. In 1981, he completed his habilitation at the TU Berlin with a lecture on beryllium minerals in metamorphic and magmatic rocks.

From 1982 to 1983, Gerhard Franz worked in the DFG Collaborative Research Centre "Geoscientific Problems of Arid Regions" at TU Berlin. He was awarded a prestigious Heisenberg fellowship (1983–1986), which supported research stays in the USA, Paris, and Granada. In 1984, he became professor at the University of Giessen, before returning in 1986 to the TU Berlin as a C3 professor of petrology, a position he held until his retirement in 2013. Even after retirement, he has remained highly

active in research, with current work—such as studies on 1.5-billion-year-old microfossils from the Volyn quartz mine in the Ukraine—receiving international attention.

Over the course of his career, Gerhard Franz has published numerous scientific papers and two specialist books. His research spans a wide range of topics, including the metamorphic evolution of the Tauern Window and the Münchberg metamorphic complex; the geodynamics of Sudan, Egypt, and the Andes; the stability of boron- and beryllium-bearing minerals; experimental studies on tourmaline, epidote, titanite, and Al-phosphates; as well as investigations of Precambrian microfossils.

Equally noteworthy is his exceptional dedication to teaching. Between 1987 and 2017, he supervised nearly 30 doctoral dissertations. His students have been shaped not only by his deep expertise but also by his thorough and thoughtful approach to research, his ability to explain complex concepts with clarity, and his contagious enthusiasm for his field.

Beyond his academic achievements, Gerhard Franz has made significant contributions to the mineralogical community. A member of the DMG since 1972, he chaired the Petrology Section from 2003 to 2004, served as treasurer of the DMG from 2014 to 2023, and has represented the DMG on the Managing Committee of the *European Journal of Mineralogy* since 2016. He also served as a member of the DFG Review Board 316 from 2004 to 2008. Internationally, he is recognized as a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America.

Kirsten Drüppel (KIT Karlsruhe)

VICTOR MORITZ GOLDSCHMIDT PRIZE 2025 TO MARTIN KUTZSCHBACH



Martin Kutzschbach began his studies in geosciences at the University of Kiel with a BSc from 2007 to 2010, continued his studies at ETH Zürich, and completed his MSc at the University of Potsdam in 2014 with a thesis in the field of applied mineralogy on the corrosion of silicate glasses. In his dissertation entitled "The effect of tetrahedral boron on the boron isotope fractionation between tourmaline and fluid – Improving tourmaline as a petrogenetic indicator" (2014–2017), a joint project between the Technical University of Berlin and the GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam, he conducted experimental work on tourmaline synthesis, boron isotope fractionation, and petrological applications.

He succeeded in demonstrating how boron, an important element for geochemical cycles, is incorporated into the structure of tourmaline at the tetrahedral position, and the resulting consequences for the isotopic fractionation of $^{10}\text{B}/^{11}\text{B}$. His work on this topic began with detailed studies of the synthesis, how metastable products during the synthesis pathway influence the reaction product, and then continued with the successful synthesis of a mineral as complicated and complex as tourmaline, with its multitude of substitution mechanisms and extremely large chemical variability. His work on this mineral extended to the petrological application of studies on fluid flow and fluid–rock interactions in rocks during alpine metamorphism. He has gained experience across the entire spectrum of scientific work, from challenging experiments to the analysis of synthesis products and the analysis of natural samples to the evaluation of such data in geochemical models.

This project sparked his interest in improving analytical capabilities. The light elements boron and lithium are difficult to determine using the common modern physical methods, so during his early postdoc

period at the TU, he focused on setting up a laboratory for in-situ analysis using the laser ablation method. Setting up a laboratory like this requires a great deal of time and effort, and one must practice tolerance for frustration in order to overcome the technical and scientific problems, but even more so in overcoming the bureaucratic obstacles that can be thrown in the way by university administrations. However, building such an infrastructure is invaluable for our institutes; research and education thrive on it, and investing in this work brings long-term success. The technique, for example, allows for measuring the trace element distribution in a mineral at the μm range, determining isotopic fractionation of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in sulfides, and in-situ age dating using the Rb/Sr method in micas and feldspars, allowing for far-reaching applications. He has demonstrated this, using examples such as the capture of elements by microorganisms, the incorporation of radium into barite, the distribution of arsenic between pyrite and fluid, and the readjustment of Rb-Sr isotopes in metamorphic micas.

The Rb-Sr method, using laser ablation on the common minerals feldspar and mica, has allowed him to dramatically expand the possibilities for reconstructing the history of a rock in detail. Of particular interest is the retrograde evolution of magmatic-metamorphic rocks, which, when combined with petrological and crystal-chemical data, can be broken down in detail. He has demonstrated that micas can often retain their Rb-Sr systematics, allowing the dating of detrital material in sediments and thus obtaining information about source areas and sedimentation ages. An ongoing project focuses on the indirect dating of organisms from the deep biosphere and the post-magmatic development of pegmatites. His latest research shows that various types of micas can be reliably dated using the Rb-Sr laser ablation method controlled by other isotope systems, as well as the previously unsuccessful dating of the ammonium feldspar buddingtonite. It will allow the determination of diagenetic ages in carbon-rich sediments. The history of pegmatites can be reconstructed from their intrusion ages at 1.7 Ga to several overprints at 1.5 Ga, 500 Ma, and down to 200–300 Ma.

Since 2024, Martin Kutzschbach has been working at Goethe University Frankfurt in the Geology and Paleoenvironmental Research group and at the Center for Isotope Geochemistry (FIERCE) in a dedicated position funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in the project "Completing the Detrital Record of Clastic Sediments by in situ Rb/Sr Dating of Mica." He is co-organizing a doctoral short course, FIERCE 2025, for the Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft, and the DMG presented him with the Paul Ramdohr Award in 2017.

Gerhard Franz (TU Berlin)

DMG SHORT COURSES 2026

DMG will support several short courses in 2026. All courses will be aimed primarily at advanced-level undergraduate and graduate students but, as always, are open to more senior researchers as well. Non-local student members of DMG will be eligible for travel support to the amount of € 100. Further information can be found at www.dmg-home.org/aktuelles/doktorandenkurse/.

(1-26) **High-Pressure Experimental Techniques and Applications to the Earth's Interior**, Bayerisches Geoinstitut/University Bayreuth, Florian Heidelberg, 16–20 Feb. 2026, florian.heidelberg@uni-bayreuth.de, www.bgi.uni-bayreuth.de/ShortCourse2026

(2-26) **SEM-based Automated Mineralogy – Fundamentals and Applications in Geoscience**, TU-Bergakademie Freiberg, 16–19 March 2026, <https://tinyurl.com/rdt28eem>

(3-26) **Metal stable isotopes as fingerprints in the Earth and the environment**, GFZ Potsdam und FU Berlin, Fachbereich Geowissenschaften, Friedhelm von Blanckenburg, Patrick Frings, 23–28 March 2026, patrick.frings@gfz-potsdam.de, f.v.b@fu-berlin.de

(4-26) **Geochemical modeling and reactive transport with Geochemist's Workbench**, Institute for Geosciences, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, 9–12 March 2026, Juraj.Majzlan@uni-jena.de

(5-26) **Solid-State NMR Spectroscopy**, Institut für Geologie, Mineralogie und Geophysik, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Michael Fechtelkord, 26–29 May 2026, michael.fechteltord@rub.de, www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/dgk-ak12/workshops/dmgshortcourse

ANNUAL DMG MEETING 2026



DMG-Short Course/"Doktorandenkurs", March 9-12, 2026, Jena
Geochemical modeling and reactive transport with Geochemist's Workbench



The four-day course provides an introduction to the thermodynamic description of aqueous systems using the geochemical software Geochemist's Workbench®. It introduces the various modules of the geochemical code through practical examples such as the calculation of aquatic speciation, mixing of solutions, solubilities (gases/solids), application of the Pitzer activity model for saline systems and sorption using surface complexation modeling. More complex examples address thermodynamics and kinetics of natural systems (soils, aquifers, sediments) to the construction of stability diagrams, reaction pathways, and reactive transport models.

Requirements: The course is aimed primarily at advanced-level undergraduate and graduate students but is also open to postdoctoral researchers. Participants should have basic background in mineralogy, geochemistry; knowledge of basics of thermodynamics is helpful. The number of participants is limited to 18. The tuition language is English or German, depending on the language skills of the participants.

Location: Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Institute for Geosciences, Burgweg 11, 07749 Jena

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System): Participants may obtain 3 ECTS credit points after completion of the course and after passing a written examination. For students who do not wish to obtain an ECTS certificate, the examination is not required.

Costs: There is no fee for the course. Teaching materials and software licenses are provided by the Institute of Geosciences in Jena. Participants are expected to identify and book the accommodation on their own. The course receives financial support by German Mineralogical Society (Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft - DMG). Non-Jena student members of DMG are eligible for travel support to the amount of Euro 100,-.

Information: Further information can be obtained from www.dmg-home.org/aktuelles/doktorandenkurse or Dr. Juraj Majzlan, email: Juraj.Majzlan@uni-jena.de (organizer) or Dr. Frank Bok, email: f.bok@hzdr.de (instructor). Tel.: +49-3641-948700.

Applications should be sent to Dr. Juraj Majzlan, email: Juraj.Majzlan@uni-jena.de.

Registration requests will be accommodated on the first-come, first-serve basis. They will be accepted until the full course capacity is reached.

