



NEW MEMBERS JOIN GS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Three new members were elected to the Geochemical Society's Board of Directors in January 2026. Shogo Tachibana was elected Vice President, Zhen Wang was elected as an early career director for a two-year term, and Janne Koornneef was elected as a director with a three-year term. They represent the diverse fields of study and geographic distribution of the society's membership. Meet the entire board of directors at <https://geochemsoc.org/about/committees-and-personnel/board-of-directors>.

Vice-President



Shogo Tachibana is a professor of cosmochemistry in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science and the Director of the UTokyo Organization of Planetary and Space Science at the University of Tokyo in Japan. He is also a Specially Appointed Professor at the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, JAXA. His research focuses on the chemical evolution of the early Solar System, integrating laboratory experiments, analysis of extraterrestrial

materials, astronomical observations, chemical and physical modeling of protoplanetary disks, and Solar System exploration (including JAXA's *Hayabusa2* mission). He has served on the Joint Publications Committee since 2023 and is currently the chair. He served as General Secretary of the Geochemical Society of Japan (GSJ) from 2016 to 2017, during which he contributed to the GSJ's authorization as a General Incorporated Association. He also served as a GSJ's board member from 2016 to 2019 and from 2023, and he is currently responsible for international affairs of the GSJ. He served on the Urey Award Committee of the EAG, as a theme chair for the Goldschmidt Conference in 2016, 2019, and 2025, and on the Science Committee for Goldschmidt 2026. He delivered the Paul Gast Lecture in 2016.

Director, Early Career



Zhen Wang is a postdoctoral researcher at Curtin University in Australia. He earned his PhD at Duke University (USA) with a research focus on developing and applying geochemical and isotopic tools for tracing anthropogenic contamination in the environment. His current research centers around the geochemistry of critical metals and minerals in ore deposits and mine wastes. He is also a sitting member on the Training and Outreach Committee

for the European Association of Geochemistry (EAG), in which role he reviews applications and decides sponsorship awards for students and early career researchers in the field of geochemistry.

Director



Janne Koornneef is an associate professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Her research focuses on the geochemical evolution of the Earth's mantle and the impact of tectonic processes acting over billions of years. She specifically examines the exchange of elements between the mantle, crust, and atmosphere by subduction and magmatism. Her expertise lies in the analysis of radiogenic

isotopes in small samples, such as melt inclusions in olivine or mineral inclusions in diamonds. She is head of the Netherlands Isotope Geochemistry Laboratory (NIGEL), where broad multidisciplinary geochemical research is conducted in Earth and planetary sciences,

archaeology, forensics, and cultural heritage science. She has served on the EAG council and was chair of the EAG Communications committee between 2021 and 2024.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY AWARD RECIPIENTS

V. M. Goldschmidt Award



John M. Eiler, Robert Sharp Professor of Geology and Geochemistry at the California Institute of Technology (USA), will receive the 2026 Victor M. Goldschmidt Award this July. The Goldschmidt Award is the society's highest honor, presented annually for major achievements in geochemistry over a career. Prof. Eiler is recognized for transforming the field of stable isotopes, revolutionizing its applications in geochemistry, biochemistry, and environmental sciences. His work on clumped isotopes is of particular significance, with their application resulting in paradigm shifts in, for example, paleoclimate reconstructions, paleoaltimetry, and atmospheric models.

Victor Moritz Goldschmidt (1888–1947) was a chemist and is considered to be the founder of modern geochemistry and crystal chemistry. He developed the Goldschmidt Classification of the 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



Robert P. Mason, a professor in the Departments of Marine Sciences and Chemistry at the University of Connecticut (USA), will receive the 2026 Clair C. Patterson Award in July. 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. Mason is recognized for pioneering research that has defined global mercury

cycling from molecular to planetary scales. His work integrates field, laboratory, and modeling innovations, shaping international mercury policy under the Minamata Convention and inspiring generations through exceptional scholarship and mentorship.

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 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



Melisa Diaz, Provost's Early Career Scholar and Assistant Professor at the Ohio State University (USA), will receive the 2026 F. W. Clarke Award this July. The Clarke Award honors a single outstanding contribution to geochemistry or cosmochemistry by an early career scientist. Prof. Diaz is recognized for her work in understanding the geochemical signatures that link the distribution of organisms in Transantarctic Mountains soils to the dynamics

of past glacier movement. She used geochemical and isotopic tools to determine the impact of soil age on biogeography and habitat suitability.

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.

John Hayes Award



Francien Peterse, associate professor at Universiteit Utrecht (the Netherlands) will receive the 2026 John Hayes Award. The award is given to a mid-career scientist for outstanding accomplishments that draw together multiple fields of investigation to advance biogeochemical science. It was created in 2017 by the Organic Geochemistry Division and a group of friends, colleagues, and students of John Hayes. Dr. Peterse is recognized

for work that has significantly advanced the field of organic geochemistry by developing and applying biomarker proxies for continental climate reconstructions.

Alfred Treibs Award



Steven Rowland, professor emeritus at the University of Plymouth (UK), will receive the 2026 Alfred Treibs Award. Presented by the society's Organic Geochemistry Division, the award is given for major achievements, over a period of years, in organic geochemistry. Prof. Rowland's research has made a substantial impact across several fields of organic geochemistry, ranging from biomarker discovery, structural elucidation and synthesis, and

molecular proxy development for paleoclimate reconstruction, to environmental organic geochemistry of petroleum hydrocarbons and microplastics.

GS-EAG 2025–2026 Outreach Lecture Series: Julio Sepúlveda

University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

The GS-EAG Outreach Program aims to develop geochemistry outreach activities for underrepresented regions of the world. In 2025, Julio Sepúlveda, associate professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder, USA, visited the University of Antofagasta, Chile, and the Technological University of Panama, Panama, to give seminars and facilitate activities focused on organic geochemistry and oceanography.

At both universities, Prof. Sepúlveda offered introductory lectures focused on organic geochemistry and its applications in chemical and biological oceanography, as well as seminars on biogeochemical studies in the Humboldt Current System. These activities were supported by



Undergraduate students from the University of Antofagasta learning about oceanographic research onboard the *R/V Sonne* with Captain Oliver Meyer. PHOTO: JULIO SEPÚLVEDA.



Students at the Technological University of Panama who participated in introductory lectures in organic geochemistry.

postdoctoral fellow Dr. Edgart Flores (University of Colorado, Boulder). While at the University of Antofagasta, he facilitated a tour of the German deep ocean research vessel *R/V Sonne* for 20 undergraduate students. Students learned about life onboard, oceanographic instrumentation, and how scientists perform geochemical work.

In 2026, Prof. Sepúlveda plans to visit universities and institutes in Colombia, Perú, and Chile. For more information, see: geochemsoc.org/programs/outreach-programs.

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