



## Swiss Geological Society

<https://geolsoc.ch>

It is one of the highlights of the yearly Swiss Geoscience meetings to celebrate the talents of young researchers and to witness how geosciences prosper. The “Best Master’s Thesis Award” from the Swiss Geological Society and the “Paul Niggly Medal” are two prizes for early career researchers that are awarded annually during the Swiss Geoscience Meeting, which was held in Bern on the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, 2025. Since the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Paul Niggli in 1988, the “Paul Niggli Medal” has been awarded by the Paul Niggli Foundation. This medal is Switzerland’s most prestigious “young scientist award” in Earth Sciences; it is open to researchers that are up to 35 years old or have received their doctorate in the last 6 years, and work in the field of mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, resource geology, or solid-earth geophysics. For further information, see the awards page on the SGS website at <https://geolsoc.ch/en/awards/>.

The winners of the Niggli Medal and the Best Master Prize in 2025 made significant advances in combining experiments and the study of natural rocks to quantify fluid–rock interaction in subduction zones (Lisa Eberhard) and in constraining the tectono-metamorphic evolution of a key area in the Alps (Alessandro del Re). These studies are excellent examples of modern Earth Sciences in combining detailed mapping, petrography, and petrology with advanced experimental and analytical techniques.

Below are short citations of the awardees. The committees of the two awards are looking forward to again receiving nominations of outstanding young scientists for these prizes this year.

With best wishes

**Jörg Hermann** (President of the Swiss Geological Society)

### 2025 PAUL NIGGLI MEDAL



The Board of the Paul Niggli Foundation decided at its session of 6 June 2025 to award the Paul Niggli Medal for the year 2025 to **Lisa Eberhard** in recognition of her novel, rigorous, and versatile approach to quantifying fluid-mediated mass and redox budget transfer within subduction zones.

**Maria Schönbächler** (ETH Zürich)

On behalf of the Foundation Council of the Paul Niggli Stiftung

The laudatio from Prof. Dr. Thomas Petke (University of Bern, Switzerland) and the response of Dr. Lisa Eberhard (University of Bremen, Germany) can be found in the *Swiss Journal of Geosciences* volume 119 and is freely available at <https://doi.org/10.3897/sjg.119.183296>.

### 2025 BEST MASTER THESIS AWARD



The winner of the 2025 Best Thesis Award from the Swiss Geological Society is **Alessandro del Re** of the University of Lausanne for his work: “*Tectono-metamorphic evolution of the Simplon Pass area: new insights from geological mapping and P-T data, implications for the interpretation of the Galmji Zone Central Alps (Switzerland)*.” The committee was impressed with the high-quality mapping in a challenging

terrain, the precision of his microtectonics observations combined with careful structural analyses, petrography, and thermobarometry on a key area at the transition from the Central to the Western Alps. The work was conducted under the supervision of Jean-Luc Epard (Lausanne) and Salvatore Iaccarino (Torino).

### SWISS JOURNAL OF GEOSCIENCES AND SWISS JOURNAL OF PALAEOLOGY MIGRATED TO PENSOFT PUBLISHERS

The open-access, peer-reviewed journals *Swiss Journal of Geosciences* (*SJG*) and *Swiss Journal of Palaeontology* (*SJP*) are affiliated with the Swiss Geological Society and the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT). With deep historical roots and a commitment to high-quality peer-reviewed research, the two journals have officially transitioned the production of their journal to “Pensoft” publisher at the beginning of 2026. Dr. Daniel Marty (U. of Basel) will continue to lead both *SJP* and *SJG* as the Chief Editor. To commemorate this change, both journals have a new journal logo with a Swiss cross, and *SJG* features the Matterhorn while *SJP* features the iconic *Macrocephalites ammonite*.

The first publications of the *SJG* and *SJP* under this new partnership are now available on the new websites of each journal: <https://sjg.pensoft.net> and <https://sjp.pensoft.net>. Additionally, visitors can subscribe to the journal newsletter by clicking on the email alert button on the homepage. Both journals will continue to publish “Topical Collections.” Contact the Chief Editor Daniel Marty or submit a proposal directly on the website!

#### Swiss Journal of Geosciences (SJG)

The *SJG* focuses on original research of wide interest to the international research community, while at the same time recognizing the importance of documenting high-quality geoscientific data in a regional context. There is a particular focus on the evolution of the Tethys realm, the Alpine/Himalayan orogen, and collisional orogens in general. This international journal covers disciplines such as tectonics & structural geology, petrology & mineralogy, geochemistry, geophysics, sedimentology, volcanology, palaeontology, stratigraphy, applied geology, quaternary geology, hydrogeology, regional geology, alpine geology, and orogenesis.

With a Scopus CiteScore of 4.3 (2024) and a Clarivate Web of Science 2-year Impact Factor of 2.6 (2024), *SJG* figures in the first quartile in the field of geosciences. The visibility of published articles is further reflected by the high number of full-text downloads (over 330,000) in 2024.

#### Swiss Journal of Palaeontology (SJP)

The *SJP* continues to be a vital home for original research and review articles of interest to the international and Swiss community in the field of palaeontology. Manuscripts with high-quality global or regional palaeontological data analyses are welcome, notably from Switzerland and adjacent countries. We welcome contributions of all fields of palaeontology including alpha taxonomy & systematics, palaeobiology, palaeoecology, palaeobiodiversity, palaeoenvironment, biostratigraphy, conservation palaeontology, and palaeontological methodology, including palaeontological studies employing up-to-date methods such as CT- or synchrotron-scanning, geochemical analyses, and complex phylogenetic analyses.

With a Scopus CiteScore of 4.8 (2024) and a Clarivate Web of Science 2-year Impact Factor of 2.2 (2024), *SJP* is placed in the first quartile in the field of palaeontology. The visibility of published articles is further reflected by the high number of full-text downloads (188,000) in 2024.



Cont'd on page 145

## LETTER FROM THE SFMC PRESIDENT

Newly re-elected president of the SFMC, I would like to warmly thank M. Blanchard, who has supported and guided me until 2025 as secretary general. I would also like to thank F. Gaillard, former vice president, who is being replaced by P. Lanari. The latter will gradually hand over management of the website to A. Néri, the vice secretary. As is the case every two years, at the end of 2025, half of the SFMC board has been renewed. I would like to thank those who are leaving the board: J.-M. Montel, M. Chassé, B. Malvoisin, and E. Bruand, as well as those who are staying on, such as H. Bureau and G. Delpech. G. Delpech is joining the executive committee and becomes editor and correspondent for *Elements Magazine*. E. Bruand joins the board as a guest, as she and her team are preparing to host the European Mineralogical Conference in Brest in 2028. I would like to welcome the new advisors E. Amiguet, C. Baudoin, R. Coltat, C. Lotout, and G. Siron.

As a president, I would like to remind you that the role of our society in France is to promote mineralogy and crystallography. Each year, the Haüy-Lacroix Prize is awarded to the best doctoral thesis in one of the SFMC's areas of research: mineralogy, crystallography, materials science, and the study of minerals in their petrological, geological, and geochemical context. The Society also awards prizes for scientific careers, and in 2025 the prize for a mid-career researcher was awarded to Sylvie Demouchy by an international jury. In 2026, the prize will be awarded to a more advanced career.

The society also promotes various events taking place in France. Over the past two years, we have supported the Alfred Lacroix Days (Paris MNHN, September 2024), the Earth Sciences Collections Symposium (Grenoble, October 2024), the Experimental Mineralogy, Petrology, Geochemistry meeting (Orleans, June 2025), and a training course on the inner Earth, "Forsterite" (Ariège, October 2025). In addition, young researchers working on their theses or post-doctorates can receive grants to attend these events or others abroad. In 2025, the

Society launched a photography competition and created a 2026 SFMC calendar featuring the best contributions sent in by members: visit the SFMC website! Over the next two years, the SFMC will organize new themed days (Extraterrestrial Material) and the European Mineralogical Conference 2028 in Brest. To make this event, which will take place in July 2028 and allow us to celebrate our society's 150th anniversary, a success, we will need the support of our entire community.

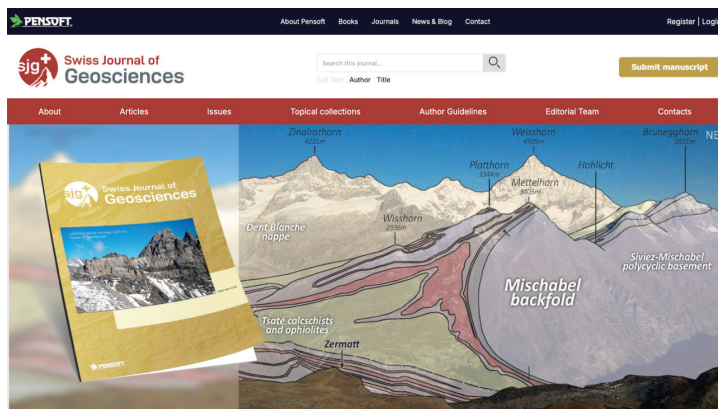
## SFMC MID-CAREER MERIT AWARD



### Sylvie Demouchy received the SFMC Mid-career Merit Award

Sylvie Demouchy is renowned for her work on hydrogen diffusivity in nominally anhydrous minerals in the mantle, particularly olivine. She has also demonstrated that hydrogen diffusivity in grain boundaries is not as rapid as previously thought, meaning that H-rich and H-poor heterogeneities in the mantle could persist over geological timescales. An important aspect of Sylvie's career at Géoscience Montpellier has been the experimental study of the rheological properties of olivine, culminating in a new flow law that allows continuous modelling of upper mantle deformation, from the depths of the lithosphere to those of the asthenosphere, which is now used in geodynamic modelling. Finally, Sylvie demonstrated the existence of disclination in deformed olivine, rotational defects in the crystal lattice that had previously only been predicted theoretically in silicates. A geologist by training, she continues to analyze natural samples through her studies of xenoliths from the lithospheric mantle. In addition to her scientific achievements, Sylvie has trained many students. She is also recognized for her service to the national community (through the SFMC, Section 18 of the CNRS, the High Pressure Network, and the CSIT) and the international community (having served as secretary of the IMA, as well as her service to the MSA and the EMU).

Cont'd from page 143



## NEW FINANCIAL MODEL

Both journals have a new financial model, which will allow financing of more articles from authors who do not have full funding to pay for Open Access Publication. The Article Processing Charge fee of EUR 1500 covers the publication of up to 26 pages in the final print PDF, with additional pages costing EUR 30 per page. A part of the APC will go

directly toward supporting researchers and publications by allowing us to offer more waivers and discounts for authors who have limited or no funding. More information can be found on the journals' webpages.

## NOW POWERED BY PENSOFT'S OPEN-ACCESS SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING PLATFORM

In joining Pensoft, both *SJP* and *SJG* will get access to improved publishing infrastructure, and benefit from increased visibility and discoverability for their published research. The journals will use Pensoft's self-developed platform, ARPHA – an end-to-end publishing solution that makes it easy for both people and machines to access, cite, and reuse research. With its design, ARPHA streamlines publishing workflows, providing a single online ecosystem for the entire editorial process, from manuscript submission to peer review, editing, publication, and archiving. Prof Lyubomir Penev, CEO and Founder of Pensoft, welcomed the partnership: "We are thrilled to welcome both the *SJG* and *SJP* to the Pensoft family of next-generation scientific journals. We appreciate this new partnership and look forward to seeing the journal thrive using our advanced publishing services."