



International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

IAG EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AWARD

This year's winner is Dr Saini Samim from the University of Melbourne, Australia. Her research applies high-precision $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ geochronology and LA-ICP-MS trace element geochemistry to volcanic products to refine stratigraphy and tephrochronostratigraphic frameworks of paleo-anthropological sites in the Turkana Basin, Kenya. She was presented with her Award by the IAG President, Prof Dorrit Jacob (ANU, Canberra) at Goldschmidt 2026 in Montreal, Canada in July. As part of her Award, she gave a Medal Lecture on her research (<https://conf.goldschmidt.info/goldschmidt/2026/meetingapp.cgi/Paper/36010>).



This award, made annually, aims to promote the careers of individuals who have either developed innovative analytical methods or provided new strategies to improve data quality as applied to the chemical analysis of geological or environmental materials. Submission requirements, further details, and the nomination form for the **2027 Award** can be downloaded from the IAG website (www.geoanalyst.org); the deadline for receipt of nominations is **31 October 2026**.

MINPT – NEW MINERALOGICAL PT SCHEME

The IAG is launching **MinPT**, a **new mineralogical proficiency testing round** designed for laboratories specialising in **mineralogical** and **“automated mineralogy”** techniques, including methods such as XRD, MLA, QEMSCAN, TIMA, μXRF , as well as related approaches. Participating laboratories will be sent suitable test material and asked to provide analytical measurements using their routine analytical procedures and submit an estimate of the proportion (%) of minerals present.

Statistical analysis of the submitted data sets will be undertaken to determine the best estimate of the mineral content. Each laboratory will be sent a report summarising the agreement between their data and consensus values.

The intention is to allow laboratories to assess their results and identify unexpected bias (if present), leading to an overall improvement in the quality of data produced by this sector. Chemical data will also be



MinPT

Geochemical–Mineralogical
PROFICIENCY TEST
IAG Proficiency Testing

available for this round via the GeoPT scheme. Following circulation of the initial sample, currently scheduled for the Spring of 2027, further test materials will be circulated periodically. There will be no charge for participation in this round. Please register your interest with any further questions by emailing minpt@hzdr.de.

CARBONATE REFERENCE MATERIALS

We have expanded our catalogue of well-characterised isotope ratio reference materials (RMs) with a new suite of **six Ca-Mg-Fe carbonate reference materials for in situ $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ measurements**.

The suite comprises three dolomites (Tucka-22, M9548.2, Eugui), one ankerite (WPA-177-2), one magnesite (M21350.2), and one siderite (Vizille-1). Each material has been produced as metrologically consistent aliquots and assessed for chemical composition, mineralogy, bulk isotope values, and microhomogeneity. The RMs are available for purchase individually or in sets. Please visit iageo.com for ordering details and pricing. IAG members are eligible for a discount.

These materials span a wide range of compositions and isotope ratios, enabling matrix-matched corrections that reduce bias arising from solid-solution effects in carbonate systems. Scicchitano et al. (2026) gives full characterisation data and recommended usage notes.



REFERENCE

Scicchitano and 10 coauthors (2026). Six Ca-Mg-Fe carbonate reference materials for in situ measurement of oxygen and carbon isotope ratios. *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research* 50: 155-179, doi: 10.1111/ggr.70031