



International Association of GeoChemistry

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BRIAN HITCHON (1930–2026): A LIFE OF SERVICE TO APPLIED GEOCHEMISTRY AND THE INTERNATIONAL GEOCHEMICAL COMMUNITY

From an obituary written by Orfan Shouakar-Stash, Yousif Kharaka, and Bill Gunter; to be published in *Applied Geochemistry*.

The international geochemical community has lost a remarkable colleague, scholar, and builder of scientific institutions with the sudden and unexpected passing of Dr. Brian Hitchon in April. His legacy extends well beyond his own scientific contributions. Through decades of service, editorial leadership, and a generous commitment to international collaboration, Brian helped shape the organizations, meetings, and publications that continue to support applied geochemistry today.

Brian was a founding member of *Applied Geochemistry*, and his history of the IAGC appeared in the inaugural issue in 1986. This history is soon to be updated by Russ Harmon, Berry Lyons, and Rich Wanty.



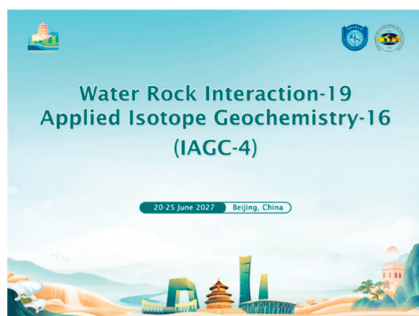
WATER-ROCK INTERACTION-19 / APPLIED ISOTOPE GEOCHEMISTRY-16 (IAGC-4) BEIJING, CHINA — JUNE 20–25, 2027

The WRI-19 First Circular is now available at the conference website: <https://wri-19.scimeeting.cn>.

With a global perspective, the 19th International Symposium on Water Rock Interaction and the 16th International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry (WRI-19/AIG-16 (IAGC-4)) will take place in the city of Beijing, China, from 20 to 25 June 2027. Known as WRI-19/AIG-16 (IAGC-4), the conference features 31 parallel sessions covering a wide range of topics, including geothermal and groundwater resources, water quality and human health, carbon sequestration and petroleum systems, deep fluid–rock interactions, critical zone hydrology, biogeochemical cycling, isotope tracers for water and air contaminants, advanced methods, modeling and technologies in WRI study, and WRI under global change and sustainable development.

Conference Paper Submission and Registration begins August 15, 2026.

2027 also marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the IAGC, and we hope to include a celebration of the occasion at the conference in Beijing. Please send any suggestions to businessoffice@iagc-society.org.



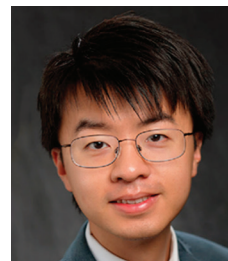
CHEN ZHU HAS ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF CO-EXECUTIVE EDITOR FOR THE *APPLIED GEOCHEMISTRY JOURNAL*

Chen Zhu is a Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Indiana University-Bloomington, USA, with adjunct appointments in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and the School of Public Health. He is also the chair of the IAGC GES Working Group. His research focuses on geochemical modeling, kinetics, and thermodynamics of water–mineral reactions and their applications to diverse Earth and environmental processes. Zhu earned a PhD from Johns Hopkins University (USA), an MSc from the University of Toronto (Canada), and a BS from the Chengdu University of Technology (China). He will start as the new Co-Executive Editor of *Applied Geochemistry* on July 1, 2027.



Zimeng Wang will step down as Co-Executive Editor of *Applied Geochemistry*, and will become the first Past Editor-in-Chief of the official IAGC journal on July 1, 2027. He will provide continuity for the incoming new Co-Executive Editor, and will also help guide the 40th Anniversary topical collection of articles for the anniversary issue.

Zimeng is a professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering at Fudan University, China. He received a B.S. from Fudan University in 2009, and a PhD from Washington University in St. Louis (USA) in 2013, followed by postdoctoral research at Stanford University (USA). He teaches soil chemistry courses and directs an environmental geochemistry program.



ABOUT *APPLIED GEOCHEMISTRY*

Applied Geochemistry, the official journal of the International Association of GeoChemistry (IAGC), has been a leading publication since 1986. With an impact factor of 3.4 and a CiteScore of 6.7, it serves a multidisciplinary audience in the geochemical community, focusing on research with practical applications. The journal supports the UN's sustainable development goals, particularly SDG 3, SDG 6, and SDG 13.

OTHER IAGC NEWS

XIII Congreso Argentino de Hidrogeología y IX Seminario Hispano-Latinoamericano sobre Temas Actuales de la Hidrología Subterránea



This convention will be held on September 21–25, 2026 at Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the theme “Groundwater: A flowing source of life that connects us.” The event is aimed at professionals, researchers, educators, students, administrators, and those responsible for groundwater management. Daniel Martinez, IAGC Kharaka Award winner in 2025, is president of the Organizing Committee for this meeting in Argentina. For more information, please visit <https://congresohidrogeologia.mdp.edu.ar>.