



Association of Applied Geochemists

www.appliedgeochemists.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Matt Leybourne

The 27th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS; April 21–24, 2015) is already less than a year away – only six months after the last IAGS! The website is fully active (www.27iags.com), and includes a call for abstracts and description of field trips (6 field trips, highlighted by an 8-day trip looking at the geology of the Grand Canyon by boat), short courses, and sessions. Registration was live on May 15, so register early. The 6 short courses offered will deal with acid rock drainage, indicator minerals in mineral exploration, metal mobility in hydrothermal and super-

gene environments, the utility of isotopes in mineral exploration, regolith and terrain mapping, and the application of field-portable XRF in exploration. Planned social events include the Sunday icebreaker, lunch provided in a common area each day of the symposium, the Tuesday evening distinguished lecture, Wednesday (all day) social programs and short field trips (designed for attendees and accompanying persons), Thursday evening AAG awards / IAGS dinner, plus partner events throughout the week. Unlike the last IAGS, the meeting will have a rest day on Wednesday. The meeting and accommodations will be at the Hilton El Conquistador Hotel Resort and Spa in Tucson, Arizona, USA.

Gwendy Hall is stepping down in 2015 as editor of our journal, *GEEA* (*Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis*). I speak for the entire association when I say that we will be hard pressed to find an editor-in-chief as organized, dedicated, and successful as Gwendy has been. Gwendy has taken *GEEA* from its beginnings 14 years ago to its current position as the strongest journal in the field of exploration geochemistry, along with its increasing strength in analytical and environmental geochemistry. Thank you, Gwendy, for your outstanding leadership in this role. Big shoes to fill!

On a related note, I am working on an issue that affects journals like *GEEA*. I am sure that many, if not all, of us receive, at least weekly, e-mails asking for submissions to new journals, typically described as “open access.” This is an important issue for a number of reasons: (1) These are typically not real journals in the sense that they do not seem to have rigorous peer-review processes in place; several scientists and journalists have shown this over the last year by submitting, and having accepted for publication, manuscripts deliberately designed to be garbage; the notion of “open access” is, as a result, becoming conflated with bad science. (2) Open access from reputable journals simply means that nonsubscribers do not have to pay for access to the article. (3) These “journals” are making a mockery of the peer-review process. Peer review is not without its flaws, but strong peer review, combined with editorial leadership, is the best mechanism to ensure that good science is promoted and published. As a result, I would encourage reviewers to say who they are (this is optional for *GEEA*), and for authors to acknowledge their reviewers in their manuscripts (even when anonymous).

Finally, I have very sad news to report – we recently lost one of the lions of our field. Eion Cameron was a mover and shaker in exploration geochemistry, and many other fields of geochemistry, for several decades. He will be sorely missed.

Matt Leybourne (Matthew.Leybourne@alsglobal.com)
ALS Global, AAG President

WANTED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOR *GEEA*

The Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG) and the Geological Society of London (GSL) are seeking to fill the position of Editor-in-Chief of their co-owned journal, *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis* (*GEEA*). There will be a period of overlap with the current editor early in 2015, with the new editor taking full management in the later months of the year. *GEEA* is available online through the GSL's Lyell Collection, GeoScienceWorld, and the AAG. It was established in 2001 and is published quarterly (www.geolsoc.org.uk/geea), and it covers all aspects of the application of geochemistry to exploration for mineral deposits. Topics include: new and improved methods of geochemical exploration; geochemical mapping; sampling and analytical techniques; processes of dispersion of elements in rocks, soils, vegetation, water, and the atmosphere; differentiation of geogenic and anthropogenic sources; statistical methods applied to interpretation; and related environmental aspects.

The position requires a strong background in research in this field together with a substantial publication record. The editor will be a good communicator and have a high degree of organizational skills and leadership ability. Building a network with geochemists in academia, industry, and government is vital. The editor is free to build his/her editorial team and to develop the optimal arrangement of associate editors and board members to carry out a balanced and efficient procedure for reviewing, editing, and processing papers. The editor will be in frequent e-mail communication with the journal's production editor in Bath, UK. The editor will also interact with the director of publishing of GSL and other journal editors within the GSL to aid in the establishment of an integrated policy and publishing system.

This is an exciting, evolving time in publishing globally, and you can make your mark! The rewards are many, such as the opportunities to create your vision of *GEEA* and take the journal in new directions, produce special thematic issues on emerging technologies/methods, develop an extensive network and new relationships within the broad community of geoscientists, and foster integration of related disciplines.

Please send expressions of interest directly to me for eventual review by a selection committee.

Gwendy Hall (gwendyhall@gmail.com)
Editor-in-Chief, *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis*

