It was a busy 2014 for SIMP. Our society was involved in several activities that had as their aim the better promotion and awareness of mineralogy and petrology both in Italy and abroad.

Many grants and awards given out during 2014. SIMP awarded 18 grants to selected members to participate in international and national meetings; two prizes of equal merit were awarded for the best scientific paper by a young researcher (to Matteo Ardit and Cristian Biagioni); three grants were awarded for the recipients to study abroad (to Sara Callegaro, Silvia Gentili and Vincenzo Guarino); four prizes of equal merit were awarded for the best PhD theses in mineralogy and petrology (to Veronica D’Ippolito, Elisa Gasparini, Davide Novella and Luca Ziberna).

On the social network side, SIMP Facebook profile is gaining more and more “likes,” and this indicates how important it is to grab the attention of the younger generation of researchers using social media.

SIMP joined with the Italian Geological Society to sponsor the 3rd series of distinguished lectures: these focused on planetary depositions environments (Gian Gabriele Ori) and on quasicrystals found in meteorites (Luca Bindi). The two lecturers travelled throughout Italy during 2014 and will continue giving their lectures during the first half of 2015.

The Cultural Heritage School was organized by the Georesources, Environment and Cultural Heritages informal group and was held in Catania (1–4 July 2014), and the School on Geological and Practical Application on Mineral Physics (Bressanone, 2–5 February 2015) was organized by the National Mineralogy informal group. Our society has also sponsored many Italian and international meetings over the last year, such as the Giornate Mineralogiche di Tavagnasco and the Himalaya-Karakorum–Tibet workshop.

We celebrated the International Year of Crystallography (IYCr2014) by supporting several events organized by SIMP members: the exhibition “Cristalli!” started in Padova and then travelled across Italy; “Cristalli al raggi-X” was held in Modena; “Vedere invisibile” was held in Perugia; the 1st European Crystallography School was held in Pavia; and there was the Accademia dei Lincei workshop, “IYCr 2014 Challenges in Crystallography.”

SIMP has also sponsored Diamond School held in Bressanone (http://www.indimedia.eu/diamond_school_2015.htm), and will support the 8th European Conference on Mineralogy and Spectroscopy in Rome (www.ecms2015.eu).

We congratulate several SIMP fellows who were elected to the IMA: Marco Pasero (councilor); Federico Pezzotta (chairman of the Commission on Museums); Paola Comodi (secretary of the Commission on Physics of Minerals); and Giovanni Pratesi, Mauro Prencipe, and Francesco Di Benedetto as SIMP representatives on IMA commissions.

The last year will be remembered most of all for the successful meeting (held 10–12 September in Milan; http://www.geoscienze2014.it/) that was jointly organized by SIMP and the Italian Geological Society (SGI) and that was featured in the previous issue of Elements.

Building on the above success, SIMP has organized a new joint meeting – entitled “The Dynamic Planet: Developments and Perspectives 100 Years After Wegener” – that will feature collaborations with SGI, with the Italian Society of Geochemistry, and with the Italian Association of Volcanology. The meeting will be held September 2–4, 2015, in Florence. There will be a two-day pre-congress workshop (August 31st–September 1st) and a one-day post-congress workshop; short courses will accompany the meeting. Full information will be soon available on the SIMP website (www.socminpet.it).

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