



International Association of Geoanalysts

<http://geoanalyst.org>

IAG COUNCIL MEETING

The International Association of Geoanalysts's Governing Council held its most recent meeting on 20 March 2015, at Beaumont Estate near the town of Old Windsor, just west of London, England. Nearly all of the members of council were able to attend, bringing representatives not only from Europe but also from North and South America. This venue was selected for its specialization in hosting small- to medium-size business meetings in a rural environment. Located only a 20-minute drive from London's Heathrow airport, the venue's proximity and seclusion meant that participating council members arrived Thursday afternoon, effectively giving the council an extra half-day to plan new initiatives and to discuss the future direction of our association.

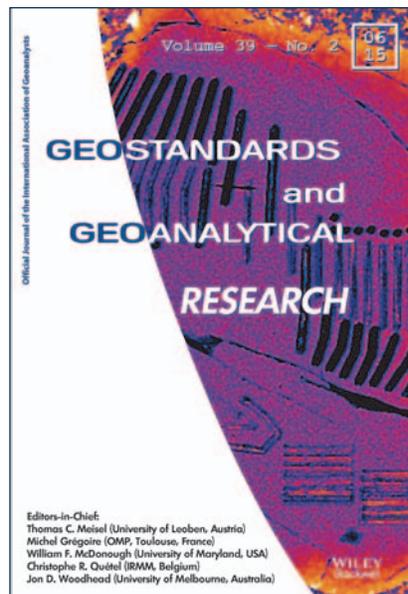


Members of the IAG council after their 2015 meeting near the town of Old Windsor (just west of London, UK).

One of the more important topics discussed involved changes to the structure of the IAG's materials certification committee. The IAG is active at the highest level of international metrology, and work has been initiated that will further optimize our ability to represent the global geochemical community in this arena. Updating IAG's certification protocol continues in order to bring it into line with recent technical guides by the International Organization for Standardization. Phil Potts, current chairperson of the IAG's Certification Committee, reported on the status of the various material certification projects that are already underway. This led to further discussion about which future sample types should be prioritized for both academic and industrial users.

IAG's council has also initiated a discussion on expanding its awards and professional recognition prizes. Jérôme Chmeleff, winner of the IAG's Early Career Scientist Award in 2007 and a council member since 2012, outlined proposals to expand the profile of our awards programme, including a higher level of support for young scientists and new research and travel grants for association members. The council enthusiastically agreed to increase the association's support of analytical geochemistry via such initiatives. Further details about these new opportunities will be announced on www.geoanalyst.org.

Ed Williams, managing editor of *Geostandards and Geoanalytical Research (GGR)*, provided a detailed status of our association's official journal. His well-received report noted that the number of top-quality manuscripts being submitted continues to grow, and efforts to minimize the turnaround time for peer-reviewed manuscripts are ongoing. Further visibility for *GGR* is being generated by the "Editor's Choice" platform, which currently contains eleven of the most highly cited articles to have appeared in the journal. These articles are in a free access format that is available to the entire geoanalytical community. Thus, these positive trends, including *GGR*'s current impact factor of 3.792, mean



that our association's scientific journal is in good health and it remains a leading source for the latest advances in the chemical analysis of geomaterials.

Doug Miles reported on the current status of IAGeo Limited, the association's commercial trading arm. Interest in quality control materials and in IAG Certified Reference Materials for whole-rock analytical methods remains unabated. Equally positive was the report that purchases of the 91500 zircon reference material remain steady. Council particularly welcomed information about the unexpectedly strong

demand for other mineral reference materials, confirming the success of IAG's collaboration with the Harvard Mineralogical and Geological Museum. Readers needing the best characterized reference materials for bulk methods or for mineral microanalyses are encouraged to visit www.IAGeo.com.

GEOANALYSIS 2015



The premier event on IAG's triennial calendar is the Geoanalysis Conference. This is a key conference for the exchange of ideas on new methods for analyzing Earth materials and on the latest trends for improved data quality. The next event in this conference series is rapidly approaching. Geoanalysis 2015, the ninth such meeting, will take place 9–14 August at the Montanuniversität in Leoben (Austria), a region with a long and well-established tradition in mining and resource processing. The conference will be preceded by four technical workshops; the post-conference fieldtrips, including options for group travel to Prague (Czech Republic) for the following week's Goldschmidt conference, are now open for registration. Scientists interested in the latest technical and theoretical advances in the characterisation of natural materials are encouraged to visit the conference's web site at www.geoanalysis.info.

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