Next time you see or hear a news report about the price of copper or plug your cellphone into an electrical outlet, perhaps you will think about supergene metal deposits. These deposits are the primary sources for the metals (e.g., Al, Fe, Cu) that we use to build and maintain society. Our thoughts about ore deposits are often focused on exploration, mining operations, metal prices, and metal availability. However, as the articles in this issue will reveal, supergene metal deposits are more than sources for critical metals. These deposits can also be “mined” for information about climate evolution, archaeology, corrosion science, geomicrobiology, and so much more. Supergene metal deposits are valuable resources in more ways than one!

In addition to our annual meeting, the EC conducts its business via email so that all representatives have an opportunity to share their opinion. The dedicated EC members are the critical linkage between Elements and the societies. They keep the societies’ interests at the forefront while maintaining an open line of communication between Elements and the societies. Several new EC members have joined and several long-serving EC members have moved off. I am grateful for all of their insights, ideas, humor, and service to Elements. Should you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, please contact a society representative listed on the masthead page.

Barb Dutrow, Chair
Elements Executive Committee
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