Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

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Society Award in Honour of Prof. R. A. Howie: The "Mineralogical Society Best Paper Award"

An award is made annually to "the lead author of the 'best paper' published (in English) in a mineralogical journal (sensu lato) within three years of award of his/her PhD thesis." The award will take the form of a bursary (£1000) to attend an international conference (to be agreed with the society) and present a paper as the "R. A. Howie Memorial Lecture". The money will be paid on receipt of an official confirmation of conference registration.

The "R. A. Howie Memorial Lecture" award is named in honour of Prof. R. A. Howie (1923–2012), a distinguished professor of mineralogy at Kings College London and Royal Holloway University, London. The nomination process is outlined below.

Nominations

Nominations can be made by any scientist (including a co-author) but not the nominee him/herself and must be supported by a fellow scientist familiar with the nominee's work.

Nominations must be received by the executive director by **1 September** each year. The society's Awards Committee will consider the nominations and rank them. This ranking will then be passed to the society's council (by mid-October) for a formal decision at the November meeting of that committee. Council will make a decision and inform the winner.

Nominations should consist of a letter of nomination together with at least one letter of support along with a copy of the paper being nominated and a copy of the nominee's CV. The letter(s) should address the criteria outlined below and how any or all of them are met by the paper in question. Each nomination package should be submitted in electronic form (a single pdf file) and sent to the Society's executive director, Kevin Murphy (kevin@minersoc. org).

Award criteria

The Awards Committee will take into consideration the following points:

1. Novelty

2. Interdisciplinarity

3. Applicability

4. How science is advanced by the new work

Timing

The nominated paper must have been published in the calendar year before the nomination and within three years of award of the candidate's PhD and will remain on the slate for up to two years.

GNM SCHOOL ON "THE PHYSICS OF MINERALS"

Bressanone (Italy), 2–5 February 2015

In the cold, yet sunny, winter of Bressanone/Brixen, the Gruppo Nazionale di Mineralogia (GNM) organized a school, held 2–5 February 2015, on The physics of minerals: geological implications and practical applications. The school was organized under the aegis of SIMP and was tailored for MSc and PhD students and for young researchers. All the teaching activities were housed in the Casa della Gioventù, a well-equipped teaching center belonging to the University of Padova. The scientific program lasted four days and included lectures and practical activities with freeware software (equations of state, crystal structure refinements, thermodynamics, and phase diagram calculations). The teaching staff included Gabriella Salviulo (Padova), Marco Pasero (Pisa), Ross J. Angel (Padova), Sergio Speziale (Potsdam), Giovanni B. Andreozzi (Roma), Francesco Princivalle (Trieste), Cristian Biagioni (Pisa), Daniele Antonangeli (Paris), Paola Comodi (Perugia), Donato Belmonte (Genova), Gilberto Artioli (Padova), Alessandro F. Gualtieri (Modena), and Giuseppe Cruciani (Ferrara).

Group photo of GMN school participants

Giulia Guidobaldi   Veronica D'Ippolito

The school was attended by 39 students who had the opportunity to display their research in a dedicated poster session. Two students were awarded a special mention for their poster presentations during a convivial dinner on the last evening of the school: Giulia Guidobaldi (PhD, Perugia) and Veronica D'Ippolito (PhD, Roma). Participants filled out (anonymously) a short questionnaire at the end, the results of which revealed their appreciation for the range of topics covered and for the smooth organization of the school. PDFs of the lessons are available for general download at www.socminpet.it/GNM/bressanone2015.htm.