



**Sociedad Española
de Mineralogía**

www.ehu.es/sem

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Blanca Bauluz, SEM President

It is a pleasure and an honour to have been elected President of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (Sociedad Española de Mineralogía, SEM). My term started in January 2019, and I take over from Prof. Juan Jiménez Millán. The SEM elections were at the last General Assembly, held July 2018 in Madrid (Spain), at which we also elected a new vice-president, a new treasurer, and five councillors, all of whom will serve a four-year term on the executive council. The new council members are as follows: Jose María Fernandez-Barrenechea (University Complutense Madrid, vice-president), Ruben Piña (University Complutense Madrid, treasurer), and councillors Pilar Mata (Instituto Geológico y Minero de España, Madrid), Cristina Domenech (University of Barcelona), Maria Bentabol (University of Malaga), Pedro Alvarez (University of Oviedo) and Pedro Pablo Gil-Crespo (University of the Basque Country). On behalf of our members, I would like to thank all the outgoing councillors who served the society with such great efficiency and enthusiasm.

The SEM was created in 1975 and, during my period as president, it will complete its 45th year. Today, the society is in good shape, with a stable number of members at around 300. Moreover, the number of student members is increasing. The SEM must remain young and dynamic. We have begun planning for the future and would like to focus our efforts on three core issues.

(1) To increase international collaboration between academics and industry, and to increase collaboration among our own society members. Today, the world faces many challenges, and mineralogy has a significant role to play in meeting those challenges.

(2) To improve SEM's response to the needs of young mineralogists. I look forward to meeting the many students who attend SEM meetings and who usually give the very best presentations. I would like to hear from them what the SEM can do to improve their careers. Our members are very generous to our society, and we would like to look for ways in which we could provide additional services and benefits to our younger members.

(3) To bring mineralogy near the society. I would like that the society understand that mineralogy is an exciting and useful science and it is necessary to improve our quality of lives.

Blanca Bauluz, SEM President



**International Association
of Geoanalysts**

<http://geoanalyst.org>

G-CHRON PROFICIENCY TESTING SCHEME

The International Association of Geoanalysts (IAG) will soon be launching its G-Chron proficiency testing programme devoted to U–Pb age determinations. This will be the third proficiency testing scheme organised by our association.

Participants in G-Chron will be sent ~100 mg of high purity, concordant zircon. The U–Pb systematics of this material have been determined by mixed-spike isotope-dilution data provided by eight of the world's leading thermal ionization mass spectrometry (TIMS) laboratories. The age is now known at the ± 200 ka level. Participants will be given three months to characterize the age of this material and to submit their results online.

The first round of this new initiative is planned for September 2019. The IAG strongly encourages all laboratories active in the field of U–Pb age determinations to participate.

For more information about the G-Chron programme please visit: www.geoanalyst.org/G-Chron.



The high-purity Palaeozoic zircon that will form the basis for the 2019 round of the International Association of Geoanalysts' G-Chron proficiency testing programme.



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