



# Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

[www.socminpet.it](http://www.socminpet.it)

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME ADDRESS



On behalf of the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP), I express our gratitude and appreciation to Past-President Piergiulio Cappelletti for his dedication in serving the society. I'm sure he, as well as the previous presidents, will continue to support our community and provide assistance both during my term and in the future. New members, all from Italy, have been elected to join the SIMP

council for the next two years: Francesco Princivale (University of Trieste, as vice-president), Matteo Alvaro (University of Pavia), Omar Bartoli (University of Padova) and Pietro Marescotti (University of Genova); I warmly welcome all of them. The partly renewed council also includes the following: Nadia Malaspina (Treasurer, University of Milano-Bicocca) and Sabrina Nazzareni (Secretary, University of Perugia), along with Giovanni Andreozzi (Sapienza University, Roma), Diego Gatta (University of Milano), Mariano Mercurio (University of Sannio, Benevento), Alessandra Montanini (University of Parma), Elisabetta Rampone (University of Genova) and Mario Tribaudino (University of Parma).

In their own welcoming address, past-presidents Alessandro Pavese (2016–2017) and Piergiulio Cappelletti (2018–2019) highlighted five important issues affecting our science. These were 1) the severe contraction of the Earth sciences in Italy (including mineralogy, petrology, and related disciplines), in spite of the unquestionable positive impact that the Earth sciences have upon society and daily life and of the positive international perception of Italian “geoscientists”; 2) the need to strengthen the relationships between Italian geoscience organizations; 3) the importance of improving our coordination at the national level and internationally; 4) increasing the number of high-profile international collaborations and of working more closely with other European mineralogical societies; 5) the importance of supporting younger researchers. I definitely agree. Despite a lot of work that has been done, I believe that these issues should drive our plans and actions in the future.

As regard to SIMP's activities, several important meetings took place in 2019, arguably the most important being the joint SIMP–SGI [Italian Geological Society]–SoGeI [Italian Geochemical Society] congress, “The Time of Planet Earth and the Time of Man: Geosciences between Past and Future”, which was held 16–19 September in Parma (Italy). Many more initiatives are now in progress for 2020, and, to find out more, readers are encouraged to visit [www.socminpet.it](http://www.socminpet.it) and [www.facebook.com/socminpet.it/](http://www.facebook.com/socminpet.it/). In 2020, the official annual meeting of our society will take place in Kraków (Poland) during emc2020 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Mineralogical Conference, “Mineralogy in the Modern World”, to be held 6–10 September 2020). This will be a vivid example of collaboration between scientific societies that share concerns about the future of our world and our disciplines.

I warmly thank SIMP members for giving me the opportunity to serve and represent the society, and I'm looking forward to meeting you in Kraków!

Best wishes  
**Daniele Castelli**  
University of Torino, Italy

## OMAR BARTOLI



The SIMP Council is pleased to inform you that SIMP member Omar Bartoli (Department of Geosciences at the University of Padua) has been awarded the Accademia dei Lincei's prestigious “Antonio Feltrinelli Giovani” Prize for Geosciences. Omar was cited

for advancing our understanding of the processes that characterize the high-temperature metamorphism of the deep continental crust. The award was presented on Friday, 8 November 2019. The SIMP Council heartily congratulates Omar.

## ITALIAN CONFERENCE ON DIAMOND AND COLOR GEMS

The third edition of the Italian Conference on Diamond and Color Gems: Genesis, Origins and Implications on the Market will be held 18–19 June 2020 in Bari (Italy) at the Department of Earth and Geo-Environmental Sciences

in the University of Bari Aldo Moro. The conference will focus on the current technological and scientific developments that allow the identification and the origin of gemstones, that can distinguish natural gems from synthetic ones, and that can recognize when a gem has undergone a treatment. **The organizers of the conference are monitoring closely the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation. Please regularly check our website for the associated decisions.**

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## SCHOOL ON STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE LOWER CONTINENTAL CRUST (7–10 October 2019, Pavia, Italy)

The School on Structure and Composition of the Lower Continental Crust (held 7–10 October 2019 in Pavia, Italy) discussed the lower continental crust from the viewpoints of geology, structure, petrology, geochemistry, and geophysics. The school was targeted at PhD students, post-docs, advanced master's students, and young researchers.

The school consisted of three days of lectures and a one-day field trip to the Ivrea–Verbano Zone (Italian Alps). A poster session for participants was also scheduled. Lectures were given by Roberto Braga (University of Bologna, Italy), Bruna B. Carvalho and Bernardo Cesare (University of Padova, Italy), György Hetényi (University of Lausanne, Switzerland), Matthew D. Jackson (Imperial College, London, UK), Antonio Langone (Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources, CNR Pavia, Italy), Sandra Piazzolo (University of Leeds, UK), Mattia Pistone (University of Georgia, USA), Silvano Sinigoi (University of Trieste, Italy), and Thomas Zack (University of Gothenburg, Sweden). The field trip was led by Silvano Sinigoi and Alberto Zanetti (both from the Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources, CNR Pavia).

The school was organized by the PhD Program in Earth and Environmental Sciences (University of Pavia), and was co-sponsored by the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP), Alma



Mater Ticinensis Foundation, and Agilent Technologies. A total of 42 participants from 17 countries attended the school. Additional information and abstracts are available at <http://phd-dsta.unipv.it/lcc>.

### The Organizing and Scientific Committee

- Riccardo Tribuzio (University of Pavia)
- Alberto Zanetti (Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources, National Research Council)
- Antonio Langone (Institute of Geosciences and Earth Resources, National Research Council)
- Alessio Sanfilippo (University of Pavia)
- Chiara Trabella (secretary) (University of Pavia)

### 2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ITALIAN SOCIETY OF MINERALOGY AND PETROLOGY



Congresso Nazionale Parma 2019  
Il tempo del pianeta Terra e il tempo dell'uomo:  
le geoscienze tra passato e futuro

SIMP Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia

SGI Società Geologica Italiana

SOGEI Società Geochimica Italiana

During 16–19 September 2019, Parma hosted the annual meeting of the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP), in partnership with the Italian Geological Society (SGI) and Italian Society of Geochemistry (SoGel). The congress, held at the Science and Technology Campus of the University of Parma, was titled “Time of Planet Earth and Human Lifespan: Geosciences between Past and Future”. Time is a key concept in the Earth sciences, but it gained an additional meaning, because Parma is the Italian capital of culture and been given the thematic title “Culture Beats Time”.

The opening day was dedicated to PhD students, providing a framework to present their results and create new cooperative networks among young scientists.



More than 700 participants attended 33 sessions and presented 626 contributions, spanning a wide range of themes, including mineral sciences, geochemistry, geo-biology, volcanology, structural geology, geological risk assessment and risk reduction. Three plenary lectures were given, respectively, by Ambre Luguët, Patrick Cordier, and Roberto Fantoni on “hot” topics in geochemistry, mineralogy, and geodynamics, and these were greatly appreciated. During the meeting, Tim Elliott and William Griffin were awarded honorary fellowships by their respective societies.

Public interest and outreach events included a sold-out geo-conference show and the third edition of the international video contest “On the Rocks”, which was open to scientists, students and all people passionate



about geology. The winners were *MicroMountains* by Stacy Phillips, *The Rock Cycle* by Viola Schmid and Catherine Heym, and *Fun With Zircon* by Mirren Green.

The organizers wish to express their gratitude to all participants. A special thanks goes to the University of Parma and to the Department of Chemistry, Life Sciences and Environmental Sustainability, both of which provided human resources and invaluable logistical support.

**Mario Tribaudino and Alessandra Montanini**  
(University of Parma)



### 5<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SERPENTINE DAYS WORKSHOP

SESTRI LEVANTE (GENOA, ITALY), 21–24 SEPTEMBER 2020

WEBSITE: <http://serpentedays2020.it/>

#### Topics

- 1 - Serpentine and Tectonics
- 2 - Serpentine in Seismicity
- 3 - Ophiolites and Drilling Projects as Field Observatories
- 4 - Serpentinization and Geochemical Cycling
- 5 - Serpentine-Hosted Deep Biosphere
- 6 - Serpentinization in Early Earth and Beyond Earth
- 7 - Geo-Hazard of Natural Occurrences of Asbestos
- 8 - Economic Aspects of Serpentine

#### Field Trip

There will be a two-day post-workshop field trip in Italy to visit the Northern Apennine Ophiolite and the Erro–Tobbio Peridotite (Voltri Massif, Ligurian Alps).

#### Contacts

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**The organizing committee of Serpentine Days 2020 is monitoring the COVID-19 situation. We have decided to pause registration until May 15<sup>th</sup> and to postpone further decisions until that time. Please check our website <http://serpentedays2020.it>**