



European Association of Geochemistry



www.eag.eu.com

2021 EAG AWARDS: RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

Nominate a Scientist for a 2021 EAG Award

The recognition of scientific excellence and achievement is one of the EAG's core missions. Receiving an award can have a significant impact on a scientist's career, providing opportunities for advancement that will, in turn, allow the recipient to widen their access to opportunities for future generations. To identify and select the most deserving scientists and ensure that all geochemists have equal opportunity to be recognized for their achievements, we need to enlist the help of the whole community.

To play your part in increasing diversity among nominees and award recipients, send in a nomination for one of the 2021 EAG awards. Nominators are encouraged to consider achievements in the broadest sense. Nominations are open until 31 October 2020 for EAG and Geochemical Society Fellows, and until 15 November 2020 for the EAG's Urey Award, the Science Innovation Award, and the Houtermans Award. Full details are available on the EAG's website at <http://eag.eu.com/awards>. Any questions can be addressed to awards@eag.eu.com in full confidentiality.



The **Urey Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to advancing geochemistry over a career.



The **Science Innovation Award** recognizes scientists within 30 years from the start of their PhD (for the 2021 award, candidates should have started their PhD in 1990 at the earliest) for recent important and innovative breakthroughs they have made in geochemistry. The subject area of this award differs each year according to a five-year cycle. The 2021 award will honor Alfred Edward "Ted" Ringwood and will recognize scientists working in petrology and mineral physics.



The **Houtermans Award** recognizes a single exceptional contribution to geochemistry that has been published as a single paper or a series of papers on a single topic. The award is bestowed to scientists within 12 years from the start of their PhD, which must be completed. Hence, candidates for the 2021 award should, therefore, have started their PhD in 2008 at the earliest.



The **GS/EAG Geochemistry Fellows Award** is bestowed upon outstanding scientists who have made major contributions to the field of geochemistry.

'LAB CORNER': DIY FOR THE FIELD

In our previous 'Lab Corner' (see *Elements* v16n3), we featured some tips and tricks for repurposing everyday items for use in the laboratory or in the field. In this next contribution, geomicrobiologists from the University of Oklahoma (USA) put together an ingenious gadget for homogenizing biological samples, and a glaciologist from Cardiff University (UK) repurposes a climbing frame for fieldwork in Greenland.

The Field Homogenizer

"When preserving biological materials for nucleic acid extraction, it's better to homogenize your samples (soil, microbial mat, filter) as quickly as possible. We solved this problem by using a battery-powered reciprocating saw and attaching our samples to the blade or chisel with tape. This worked so well that we developed the design to use a sample cup attached to the end of a chisel via some bolt stock. Aside from the welding, anyone can make this with PVC pipe/caps. Keep it as light as possible though!"



Dr. Stevenson using the homogenizer in the field. PHOTO BY VICTORIA PETRYSHYN

Bradley Stevenson and Blake Stamps

Protect and Support an Antenna during Data Reception... From a Glacier in Greenland!



The 'Cryoegg' receiver and frame in the field. PHOTO BY LIZ BAGSHAW

"We love to repurpose household items for science, and when conducting fieldwork in remote polar environments, we've become experts at adapting whatever equipment we can find. Our best example from the last field campaign in Greenland was the use of a kid's climbing frame to hold our antenna. We're developing an instrument to measure water beneath ice, to understand the microbial and geochemical environments and assess

the link between subglacial water and ice flow. The instrument (read about the 'Cryoegg' system at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-48638958>) transmits data using radio, so we need an antenna at the surface to receive it. The antenna must point down towards the ice, but the stand that holds it cannot be metallic in case it interferes with the radio signal. We found a brand of modular climbing frames, Quadro (<https://quadroplay.co.uk/>), that was perfect for building a stand, could be easily transported, and was sufficiently robust to survive the extreme wind and cold on the Greenland ice sheet. The company very kindly sponsored us, sending us some boxes to try! The system was a great success, and when the project is finished, I'm looking forward to putting it in my garden for my kid to play with. I doubt he'll care that it's been used for cutting edge science in Greenland!"

Dr. Liz Bagshaw, Cardiff University



GOLDSCHMIDT®
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goldschmidt.info/2021

In 2021, the European Association of Geochemistry and the Geochemical Society are excited to welcome the community to the beautiful city of Lyon (France) for the 31st Goldschmidt Conference.

Situated at the heart of Europe, Lyon is easily reachable by train (2 hours from Paris, 4h40 from London), and its airport offers 80 direct international connections. Lyon is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the capital of gastronomy!

See <http://goldschmidt.info/2021> for more information and mark the conference dates and deadlines in your calendar now!

**CALL FOR SESSIONS
AND WORKSHOPS:**

**Opens 1 September 2020
Closes 15 October 2020**

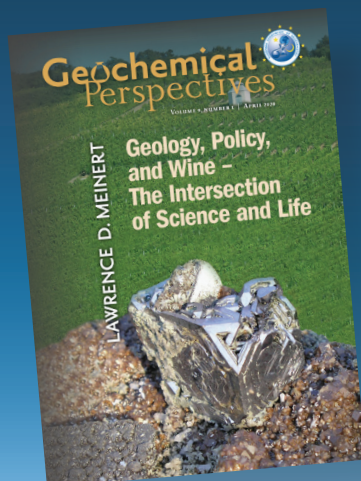
Geochemical Perspectives

OPEN ACCESS



Geochemical Perspectives is an internationally peer-reviewed open access journal that publishes invited contributions from leading scientists in the field of geochemistry.

Each issue of *Geochemical Perspectives* presents a single article with an in-depth view on the past, present and future of a field of geochemistry, seen through the eyes of a highly respected member of our community.



NEW ISSUE

Geology, Policy and Wine – The Intersection of Science and Life by Lawrence D. Meinert

This is a somewhat unusual *Geochemical Perspectives* issue in that it covers a broad range of academic, governmental, policy, wine, and celestial activities touched on during a 40 year career. From personal experience, Larry Meinert recounts his academic development, work in the US Congress, management of the energy and mineral resource functions of the US Geological Survey, helping to shape high level governmental policy, exploring resource issues beyond Earth to the Moon, Mars, and asteroids, and, last but not least, the making of fine wine.

Geochemical Perspectives is provided to all members of the **European Association of Geochemistry**.

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