



Geochemical Society

www.geochemsoc.org

NOMINATE A COLLEAGUE FOR A GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY AWARD OR SPECIAL LECTURE

Each year, the Geochemical Society (GS) seeks to celebrate and share outstanding achievements in geochemistry through our awards and special lecture program. To do this, we need your help in recognizing the innovative scientists who are making major contributions to the field.

Anyone (with the exception of those involved in the award selection process) may submit a nomination. This includes early career and more senior scientists. Considerable progress has been made regarding the diversity of nominees in recent years, but more progress is still needed. The cultural richness represented by GS members from 70 countries should also be reflected in the awards that we grant for scientific achievement. This is important not only in the interest of equity but also to ensure that all the young scientists who participate in the society and who attend Goldschmidt conferences recognize their potential future selves in the persons being honored.

Please consider submitting a nomination in 2021 by the October 31 deadline. Information on how to submit an award nominations package can be found at the GS's website: www.geochemsoc.org/honors. Nominations of people from underrepresented groups are encouraged (e.g., women, non-white researchers and/or researchers from Asia, Africa and Latin America, disabled scientists, those who have led diversified careers, other historically minoritized groups, and intersections thereof).

The society is accepting nominations through October 31 for the following awards:



The **V. M. Goldschmidt Award** is the society's highest honor. This award is presented annually for major achievements in geochemistry over a career. Beginning this year, the definition of major achievement has been significantly broadened. Full details are on the website.



The **C. C. Patterson Award** recognizes an innovative breakthrough of fundamental significance in environmental geochemistry, particularly in the service of society, consisting of either a single outstanding contribution or a short series of papers published within the last decade.



The **F. W. Clarke Award** recognizes an early career scientist for a single outstanding contribution to geochemistry or cosmochemistry, published either as a single paper or as a series of papers on a single topic. To be eligible, a candidate must have received a recognized doctorate or its equivalent within seven years of 1 January 2022. (Beginning this year, age is no longer taken into account.)



The **Alfred Treibs Award**, presented by the Geochemical Society's Organic Geochemistry Division, is given for major achievements, over a period of years, in organic geochemistry.

The **John M. Hayes Award**, created in 2017, is given by the Organic Geochemistry Division to a mid-career scientist for outstanding accomplishments that draw together multiple fields of investigation to advance biogeochemical science. The awardee will be selected based on innovative research which lies at an intersection of isotope geochemistry, organic geochemistry, microbial ecology, biogeochemistry, astrobiology and/or analytical innovation.



Joint GS–EAG Geochemistry Fellows. In 1996, the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry established the honorary title of Geochemistry Fellow, to be bestowed upon outstanding scientists who have, over some years, made a major contribution to the field of geochemistry.

The society is also accepting nominations for special lectures, which will be presented at Goldschmidt2022 in July 2022. Lecture nomination packages are relatively short, requiring only information about the nominee and one letter of support. A single nominator can easily assemble a package. The lectures are featured prominently at Goldschmidt and are a great way to share a colleague's exciting work with attendees.

The **Robert Berner Lecture**, a joint program of the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry, is given annually by a mid-career scientist. The lecture is on a "Berner" subject, which includes a wide range of topics associated with elemental cycling at the Earth's surface (molecular to planetary scale, modern to ancient oceanic and terrestrial systems, evolution of the biosphere, etc.).

The **Endowed Biogeochemistry Lecture** recognizes a prominent scientist who is making cutting-edge field-based measurements or laboratory measurements on field samples in the area of biogeochemistry.

The **F. Earl Ingerson Lecture** honors the Geochemical Society's first president. Nominations are accepted for any topic within geochemistry that will have a broad appeal to Goldschmidt attendees.

The Geochemical Society is committed to increasing diversity in geochemistry and among its formally recognized inspirational and prominent figures. We seek to promote and encourage diversity and inclusion while furthering equity, a true sense of belonging, and success for all people. In particular, the society is keen to encourage talented researchers from underrepresented groups to serve as nominators, and to be nominated for society awards. Below is information that may assist potential nominators.

What is “geochemistry”?

“Geochemistry”, broadly defined, is the study of the chemistries of and the processes in the solid Earth (and extraterrestrial bodies), atmospheres, hydrospheres, and biospheres. The development of new geochemical tools and instrumentation is also award-worthy.

Who can submit a nomination?

Any member of the geochemistry community may submit a nomination, except for the current GS Board of Directors and people serving on the selection committee of the award. Membership of the society is not required.

Who can be nominated?

Any Earth scientist making major contributions to geochemistry can be nominated. Society membership is not required. Nominees should have a track record commensurate with continued adherence to the conduct expectations of the society (please refer to Geochemical Society’s code of ethics). In particular, there should be no documented violation of these codes on record.

How do I nominate someone?

Each award has its own requirements, but all require a letter from you (the principal nominator) describing how the nominee meets the award criteria. A short version of the nominee’s curriculum vitae (CV) and a list of their publications is also needed. Some awards require a second letter, which can be signed by several people. These materials should be submitted electronically via the GS website by the annual nomination deadline. To find the requirements for every award, visit <https://www.geochemsoc.org/honors>.

Does my nomination have a chance of success?

Yes! Most named awards have about 5 nominations per year, and we would like to increase this number. The Geochemistry Fellows honor receives the most nominations (more than 80 were considered last year). The unsuccessful nominations for many awards are carried over for three years and considered again in subsequent years.

Who selects the award winners?

Each award has a committee between 5 and 8 members, each of whom serves a three-year term. These committees are international, diverse, and multidisciplinary. The award committee makes a recommendation to the GS Board of Directors, which makes the final decision on the recipient.

What factors does the committee use to determine who gets an award?

The full criteria for each award can be found on our website by selecting the particular award.

OK, I read the criteria on the website, but what other criteria are actually used?

There are no secret criteria! Committees are asked to make holistic assessments of nominees’ contributions based only on the criteria listed on the website.

What processes are in place to ensure fairness?

Each committee must follow a set of best practices in its deliberations. Award committees also submit reports to the Board of Directors after their deliberation detailing the processes used to arrive at the final decisions. The Board of Directors has oversight and the final say on awards.

Are metrics like H-index important?

Single metrics such as H-index have many drawbacks, including that they are not translatable between disciplines or even between geochemistry sub-disciplines. Thus, committees are discouraged from placing too much weight on any given metric. A nominee’s publications are often an important component of the evaluation, but the content and significance of the person’s contributions are more heavily weighted than any single metric.

How is the Geochemical Society trying to recognize a more diverse range of scientists?

The Award Nominations Committee actively seeks a diverse pool of nominations by encouraging members of the community to submit them. Membership of the selection committees is diverse in terms of nationality, gender, field of expertise, and other factors. The committee emphasizes the diversity of excellence as a goal of all awards. In the last few years, the society has rewritten the criteria for some awards to include contributions that create a dynamic environment essential for scientific progress, including building infrastructure and significant contributions toward greater diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the discipline.

Review of awards criteria is on-going with the aim of recognizing a more diverse range of scientists and contributions within geochemistry.

Will I receive specific feedback about my nomination?

We will notify you whether your nominee is selected or not. The selection committees cannot provide specific feedback about nominations. Nominations are considered active for three years, so those not selected are automatically rolled over to the next year (provided they still meet the criteria).

My question is not on this list.

Please send an email to awards@geochemsoc.org and we will be glad to answer it.

GS INTRODUCTORY STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

To increase student participation, the GS grants free memberships to students in countries that are underrepresented in the society. This includes most countries in Africa, Asia (excluding China, Japan, and South Korea), and Central and South America. Introductory Student Memberships offer benefits including print and online subscriptions to *Elements*, the weekly *Geochemical News* e-mail, and discounted registration rates for the Goldschmidt Conference and other scientific meetings. More information is available at www.geochemsoc.org/programs/ism.