SFMC MERIT AWARD 2022

The French Society of Mineralogy and Crystallography is honored to present its 2022 Merit Award to Dr Christian Chopin.

Dr Christian Chopin is internationally recognized for his expertise in mineralogy and metamorphic petrology, in particular for his role in establishing a whole new area of research called ultra-high-pressure (UHP) metamorphism. The careful study of the UHP rocks made by Dr Chopin revolutionized concepts about the metamorphism of continental crustal rocks. He has also been involved in updating nomenclature schemes for the epidote supergroup, as well as in the discovery and description of new members of epidotes.

In recent years, Dr Chopin has investigated chlorite, clay minerals, and disordered graphitic material to better estimate not only the pressure but also the temperature of metamorphism. Dr Christian Chopin’s studies cover the entire spectrum, from small-scale crystallographic aspects to large-scale problems of mountain-building. Dr Christian Chopin has also served in the best way the national and international geoscience community as a member of the boards of the SFMC and the European Mineralogical Union, as well as of various international evaluation and selection committees. However, his most significant contribution is undoubtedly his commitment to the European Journal of Mineralogy. He was part of the group of people who worked on its creation and also served for over 30 years as French Chief Editor and later as Managing Editor. Dr Christian Chopin has published almost 100 papers in leading international journals, and importantly, many of these papers had and still have a very high impact with an impressive number of citations. Christian has received many awards and has also been elected as a member of many prestigious national academies.

Committee members: Michel Grégoire (president), Elisabetta Rampone, Chiara Domeneghetti, François Holtz, Eiji Ohtani, and Sylvie Demouchy (scientific secretary).

SFMC HAUY-LACROIX 2021 PRICE

The French Society of Mineralogy and Crystallography committee attributed its Haüy-Lacroix 2022 prize jointly to Pierre Lefebre and Ségolène Rabin.

Pierre Lefebvre completed his PhD thesis entitled “Long-term evolution of uranium speciation and mobility in sediments and soils – Natural uranium enrichment processes in the Lac Nègre watershed” that was carried out at the Institut de Minéralogie, de Physique des Matériaux et de Cosmochimie (Sorbonne University, France) under the supervision of Guillaume Morin, Arnaud Mangeret, and Alkiviadis Gourgiotis. His thesis work aimed at better understanding the geochemical behaviour of uranium in the environment. The jury wished to acknowledge the novelty and importance for environmental sciences of the results acquired by Pierre LEFEBVRE thanks to a combination of methods ranging from fieldwork to spectroscopic modeling, as well as a variety of advanced analytical techniques in geochemistry and mineralogy. The implications for uranium immobilization and for the role of organic matter in its accumulation go far beyond the framework of mineralogy.

Ségołène Rabin completed her thesis at the Geosciences Environnement Toulouse laboratory (Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier University, France) under the supervision of Michel Grégoire and Franck Poitrasson. Her PhD thesis entitled “Study of iron and silicon isotopic fractionation processes between minerals and silicate liquids during magmatic differentiation” investigated the mechanisms involved in isotopic fractionation. The jury appreciated the novelty of the results presented by Ségołène Rabin, the result of a successfully large gap between the isotopic analysis of the minerals of a magmatic series in addition to ab initio calculations of the associated isotopic fractionations. This work explains for the first time to explain the variations of isotopic compositions of iron and silicon in magmas during their differentiation and traces them back to the parameters that control them (such as temperature, oxygen fugacity, and some crystallochemical parameters).

For more information about joining or renewing your membership with the Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie, please visit https://sfmc-fr.org/.