



The Clay Minerals Society

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Our journal, *Clays and Clay Minerals*, is a cornerstone of our society. If you peruse any back issue, you will quickly conclude that the 'quality' of the papers published is consistent with the highest level. My recent experiences and observations of commercial offerings, which compete for our papers, is that the same is not true. What I see instead is a clear trend towards publishing everything with apparently little regard to content and the process of diligent peer review;

'the good the bad and the ugly' all get through and sit side by side. There is quality amongst the publications in these outlets for sure, (your papers for a start), but frustratingly not consistently so, by any means of measurement. So, I would urge you all to make a stand, set an example, and show by your actions that you disprove of this approach to scientific publication. Make *Clays and Clay Minerals* or similar society-led journals, which place a focus on consistent quality, not quantity, your vehicle of choice to publish your work. Supporting our journal by your direct actions will go a long way toward ensuring that it has a bright future as an integral part of what we, as a society, do.

Stephen Hillier, CMS President

CMS PROFESSIONAL AWARD 2023 SPOTLIGHT



Randall Cygan is the recipient of the 2023 Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Award. He earned his PhD in geochemistry and mineralogy in 1983 from Pennsylvania State University, USA. He recently retired as a Senior Scientist from Sandia National Laboratories, USA where he worked for over 30 years. He currently holds an adjunct position at Texas A&M University, and lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

In 1977, he received his BS degree in chemistry with a minor in geology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, USA. While attending undergraduate school, he taught elementary chemistry and assisted with research in an experimental petrology laboratory. In 1980, he spent the summer with the United States Geological Survey in Denver investigating the chemistry and kinetics of rock-water interactions. He also spent two years as an assistant professor in the Geology Department at the University of Illinois in Urbana, USA.

His research interests are varied, including investigations of mineral equilibria, chemical kinetics, surface chemistry of minerals, adsorption and dissolution of minerals, shock metamorphism, structure and transport properties of battery materials, and molecular simulation and spectroscopy of minerals and interfacial processes. Dr. Cygan has published extensively in various chemical, geological, and materials science journals, and has received numerous honors. He is a Centennial Fellow of the College of Earth and Mineral Science at Pennsylvania State University and a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America. In 2010, he received the Brindley Lecture Award from the Clay Minerals Society. He is married to Donna Skeels Cygan and they have two adult daughters.



Christophe Tournassat is the recipient of the 2023 Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-Career Clay Scientist Award. He is currently a professor at the Institut des Sciences de la Terre d'Orléans (ISTO) laboratory at the University of Orléans, France, and a visiting faculty scientist in the Energy Geosciences Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA. He is an expert in geochemical and reactive transport modeling whose work has spanned a range of

topics from pore-water chemistry in claystones and the fate of iodine in clay barriers to sorption processes on clay minerals and anomalous transport properties of clayey materials. Improving what is known about these topics is essential to various energy-related applications such as the underground storage of radioactive waste, which involves engineered and natural clay barriers, and geological carbon storage. Contributing to these important topics has required Professor Tournassat to develop and apply expertise in the chemical and physical behavior of clays through experimentation, characterization, and modeling over a wide range of scales from the molecular to that of an underground research laboratory. Professor Tournassat is an associate editor of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* and a member of the editorial board of *Applied Clay Science*.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

CMS Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership! Please visit www.clays.org or contact the Business Office at cms@clays.org.

Student Research Grant 2023

Apply for student travel and research grants and nominations for the CMS awards. Information can be found at www.clays.org.

Save the Date!

2023 The Clay Minerals Society Annual Meeting

May 20, 2023—May 25, 2023

UT Austin - JJ Pickle Research Campus -
Commons Conference Center
10100 Burnet Road
Austin, TX 78758