



The Clay Minerals Society

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



This is my last contribution to the Clay Minerals Society's President's Corner. By the time you read this column, I will have completed my tenure as the president of the CMS. For more than 20 years, I have been a member of the CMS where I felt very comfortable sharing new ideas and gaining insights from the valuable experiences of colleagues, many of whom became friends. I feel very honored and privileged to have served as president of this society and I must thank the

members of the CMS for giving me this opportunity. This year as the CMS president has been a humbling experience. Indeed, add my own insights as the president was not the subject. Many people serve CMS as members of the office staff, executive committee, standing committees, ad hoc committees, councillors, representatives, and correspondents, and the volunteer commitments of each of them drive the inner workings of the society.

The geopolitical as well as the climate change context directly and indirectly affect people's lives but also scientific societies. Our society, as a small and dedicated organization, is far from being in a privileged position. In this complex context, we are at a crossroads facing a range of challenges, such as financial health, membership counts, journal quality and production, and adding value to members. We are trying to make positive changes on continuing to encourage and stimulate research in the field of clay science, disseminate research results, exchange innovative ideas, and attract young researchers. To support these goals, the ClayMinar series was inaugurated, the interface platform for annual meetings was created, our presence on social media was strengthened, e-communications were increased, the student and young researcher member status was revised, and our journal publisher was changed. I want to reiterate my thanks to all of the people who consistently donate their time to our society, seeking creative and innovative ways to bring about continual improvements for the benefit of all.

My final task is to introduce Ian Bourg, from the University of Princeton, USA, who will take over as the new CMS president. I wish Ian much success in his presidential duties for this coming year.

I look forward to meeting with you in person in Dublin, Ireland, next year at our 62nd annual meeting organized at the XVIII International Clay Conference (13–18 July 2025).

Sabine Petit, CMS President

CMS PROFESSIONAL AWARD 2024 SPOTLIGHT

Among our four distinguished professional awardees, we highlighted Dr. Prakash Malla in *Elements'* April issue. In this issue, we are delighted to showcase **Dr. Eric Ferrage** (IC2MP, Université de Poitiers – CNRS, France) as Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-Career Clay Scientist, and **Professor Dr. Toshihiro Kogure** (The University of Tokyo, Japan) for the CMS Pioneer in Clay Science Lecture.



Eric Ferrage obtained his PhD from the University of Grenoble (France) in 2004, followed by two postdoctoral positions at the Natural History Museum of London (UK) and the University of Nancy (France). He joined the CNRS in 2007 as a permanent researcher at the Institute of Chemistry and Material Resources (Poitiers, France). Since then, his work has focused on the multiscale analysis of the structural and dynamical properties

of fluids in contact with natural phyllosilicates, using experiments (mainly X-ray diffraction) and simulations (molecular and Brownian dynamics) to understand the fate of water and solutes in the environment.



Toshihiro Kogure received his master's degree in mineralogy from the Graduate School of Science at the University of Tokyo, Japan, in 1983. After working as a researcher in a plate glass company, he joined the University of Tokyo in 1996 and obtained his PhD there. He subsequently conducted research and education at the Department of Earth and Planetary Science at the University of Tokyo until 2023. Prof. Kogure currently holds the position of an emeritus

professor at the University of Tokyo and continues research involving clay science at the university and several other institutes. He has made significant contributions to the analysis of the microstructure of clay minerals or phyllosilicates, primarily using transmission electron microscopy (TEM), and elucidation of their formation mechanisms. He is particularly well known for his research on the structure of beam-sensitive clay minerals, such as kaolinite, using high-resolution TEM. Additionally, he has conducted research on biomineralization using various electron microscopic techniques. He has also made important contributions to understanding radiocesium contamination in the environment resulting from the Fukushima nuclear accidents in 2011, reporting several significant insights. He has authored over 230 original papers to date. In recognition of his contributions, he received the CMS Jackson Mid-Career Clay Scientist Award in 2010, the George Brown Lecture Award from the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland in 2019, as well as several awards from Japanese scientific societies. He was the president of the Clay Science Society of Japan in 2021–2022.

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