



Association of Applied Geochemists

www.appliedgeochemists.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT



In late 2009, the Association of Applied Geochemists elected five new councillors to serve for a two-year period, joining 18 other Council members to steer the association on behalf of its 600 members. These Council members are domiciled in Canada, USA, Chile, Brazil, UK, Netherlands, Italy, France, South Africa, China, and Australia, and represent industry, government, and academia. Their diversity in terms of both geographic spread and employment sector reflects that of the whole association, and shows that the

AAG is a true international organization that caters to all scientists associated with applied geochemistry. However, hidden in the diversity of its members is another aspect: the experience they bring to AAG. For example, of the five newly elected councillors, one is a French-trained geochemist who has explored for mineral deposits in the Middle East, Africa, and the Mediterranean, and another is an Australian-trained geochemist who has taught courses on applied geochemistry in India.

The benefits of a Council spread throughout the world are in part offset by the few opportunities they have to meet in person. As a consequence, the affairs of the association are dealt with by twice-yearly telephone hook-ups, with more pressing matters resolved by e-mail. The rarity of the opportunities to meet underlines the importance of AAG's biennial meeting, the International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS). April 2010 marks the 44th anniversary of these meetings, the first having been held on 20–22 April 1966 in Toronto. Following the second meeting in Golden (Colorado) in 1968, a group of geochemists, including Alan Coope, John Hansuld, and Bob Garrett, started up the Association of Exploration Geochemists (now the AAG). Of note is that the first symposium volume was compiled by Eion Cameron (and published by the Geological Survey of Canada) who, although now retired, continues to be active in the association and judiciously looks after AAG's financial affairs. Since then, symposia have been held in locations throughout the world, including Tel Aviv, Beijing, Vancouver, Perth, Santiago, Dublin, and Oviedo. At these symposia, AAG members can attend a plethora of oral and poster presentations related to exploration and environmental geochemistry, join in field excursions, and experience the culture of the host country via a range of symposium-related events. The impetus for these symposia and the eventual creation of the Association of Exploration Geochemistry (AEG) was the huge amount of interest in exploration geochemistry in Canada; so it is fitting that the next IAGS, in Rovaniemi (Finland) in August 2011, will be in large part hosted by the Finnish Geological Survey (GTK). This organization has had a long history of exploration geochemistry programs, including the development and implementation of techniques for detecting mineral deposits in glaciated terrains. I suggest that you have a look at its excellent website (www.iags2011.fi) and invite you to join AAG members at this symposium.

Paul Morris, AAG President

IOSTIPEND

Acme Analytical Laboratories Ltd. and **ioGlobal** have taken the bold initiative of aiding students in the geosciences via the **ioStipend**. The ioStipend is a grant available to students conducting exploration-related geochemical studies at a recognized educational institution. The grant is in the form of analytical services using any package pro-

vided by Acme Analytical Laboratories Ltd. Students or their teachers and advisors can apply for the grant by submitting an application to ioGlobal who will vet the proposals.

The grant is intended to promote the collection of high-quality, baseline data for comparison with more "esoteric data" (e.g. isotopic data, partial digests, nonstandard sample media) generated during the course of research, and to promote broad training in fundamental geochemical principles across the geosciences.

The **ioStipend** allows for amounts of approximately \$5000 (AUD, CAD, or equivalent) for in-kind analytical work. Successful applicants will also be provided with 3 academic licences of **ioGAS**, the new exploratory data-analysis software package available from ioGlobal. It is envisaged that up to three or four of these awards will be made each year.

Some of the projects that have been supported in the past include a study of geochemical dispersion through thick, transported cover in Australia, a study of integrated geochemical techniques in Tanzania, and an evaluation of geochemical profiles over a Cameroon gold deposit.

The recipients for 2009 were **Nathan Bridge** from the University of Western Ontario, **Harun Alrashid Mohamad Idris** from Acadia University, and **Ludovic Chauv** and **Thomas Routier** from the Institut Polytechnique LaSalle-Beauvais, France. Nathan is undertaking an MSc study of the Lac Cinquante uranium deposit in Nunavut, Canada, in order to understand the genesis of the deposit and the fluid pathways. The geochemical data will be integrated with oxygen isotope analyses. Harun is undertaking an honors project to investigate the soil geochemistry of a Zn-rich alkaline granitoid complex in Nova Scotia. Ludovic and Thomas are undertaking MSc research into geochemical and mineralogical changes during weathering of different lithologies from the Massif Central in France.

Eligibility Criteria

Preference will be given to:

- students with no other source of funding
- students working on exploration geochemistry projects
- projects with no or minimal confidentiality requirements
- well-defined projects of an applied nature

The ioStipend is international. Applications are welcome from qualified institutions globally.

Some technical input may be provided by ioGlobal on request.

Requirements for receiving the ioStipend

Recipients would have to agree to:

1. Have their project promoted on the ioGlobal website in an area devoted to R&D carried out under the program (photo, brief description of project)
2. Acknowledge ACME Labs and ioGlobal for support in technical and public presentations of results
3. Write a short article for *Explore* describing the project outcomes and allow this to be published on the ioGlobal website

The application form is available from the "downloads" section at www.ioglobal.net.

