



Association of Applied Geochemists

www.appliedgeochemists.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bob Eppinger

On January 1, 2012, I succeeded Paul Morris as president of the Association of Applied Geochemists. I am a graduate of the University of Colorado and the Colorado School of Mines, USA. For more than 30 years, I have worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, based in Denver, Colorado, beginning with geologic mapping and exploration geochemistry in Arizona, Colorado, and Sonora, Mexico. In the early 1990s, my work took me to western and northern Alaska, where I focused on exploration geochemistry and mineral resource assessment. In 1995, I broadened my interests to include

the environmental geochemistry of both undisturbed and historically mined mineral deposits in the national forests of Idaho and in the Wrangell-St. Elias and Denali national parks in Alaska. Currently, I am part of a USGS team evaluating exploration geochemical methods at the undisturbed, giant Pebble porphyry Cu–Au–Mo deposit in south-western Alaska. I am an AAG fellow and have served as councillor, vice-president, and website coordinator for AAG.

As I begin my two-year term as AAG president, I look forward to leading the organization. However, the proactive and stellar leadership of our past president, Paul Morris, is a tough act to follow. In his December 2011 *Elements* message, Paul detailed the successful 25th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS), held in Rovaniemi, Finland, in August 2011. The biennial IAGS is AAG's flagship meeting, routinely bringing together several hundred geochemists from around the world to exchange ideas, network, go on field trips, and see the latest developments in applied geochemistry, typically with a strong focus on mineral deposits. Coming up in November 2013 is the 26th IAGS, to be held in Rotorua, New Zealand (www.gns.cri.nz/iags/index.html). Early discussions are under way to select the country and venue for the 27th IAGS in 2015. Proposals are being solicited; see AAG's website (www.applied-geochemists.org) for symposium guidelines and details.

AAG now brokers and fosters two methods for students in geochemistry to gain research funding: the ioStipend, and In-Kind Analytical Research Funding. Both geochemical consulting and analytical laboratory companies are involved in providing the student funding. A list of companies and application details for these opportunities can be found on AAG's website under "Students." These are great funding opportunities, which students and advisors should carefully consider. In addition, AAG initiated a program in 2011 offering subsidized membership to qualified scientists from developing countries. With student funding opportunities, subsidized memberships, and financial assistance available to help students attend IAGS, we hope to see continued growth in applied geochemistry and in the Association of Applied Geochemists.

AAG members are active in organizing conference sessions and workshops in 2012. For the June 2012 Goldschmidt Conference (www.vmgoldschmidt.org/2012/index.htm) in Montréal, Canada, AAG members John Carranza and Cliff Stanley are convening the session "Vectoring towards Mineral Deposits: Integrated Spatial Analysis of Geochemical and Other Mineral Exploration Datasets." Planning

is well underway for the 34th International Geological Congress (www.34igc.org) in Brisbane, Australia (August 2012), of which AAG is an institutional supporter. AAG members are involved in a workshop ("Geochemistry in Mineral Exploration," coordinated by David Cohen) and in organizing several sessions: "Advances in Geochemical Exploration" (David Cohen, Ravi Anand, Ryan Noble, David Lawie, Graham Closs, Andrew Rate, and Mark Arundall), "Global Geochemical Mapping: Understanding Chemical Earth" (Dave Smith, Xueqiu Wang, and Patrice de Caritat), "Environmental Aspects of Mining" (Bernd Lottermoser and Kirk Nordstrom), and "Advances in the Evaluation and Interpretation of Geochemical Data at the Continental Scale" (Eric Grunsky and Patrice de Caritat).

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RECENT ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN EXPLORE

CHARLES MAURICE AND DANIEL LAMOTHE (2012) An appraisal of Québec's extensive geochemical database. *EXPLORE* 154 (March 2012)

The Province of Québec (Canada) covers an area exceeding 1.5 million km², most of which is composed of remote Precambrian glaciated terrain. With a geochemical database hosting more than 753,000 analyses, geochemical surveys are a key component of Québec's geoscientific program. More than 243,000 of these are rock analyses acquired during geological mapping surveys and exploration programs, and over 510,000 samples were obtained during surficial geochemical surveys (lake, till, stream, soil and water surveys). The article showcases Québec's geochemical database to the applied geochemists community and shows how geoscience data available in the Geomining Information System (SIGEOM) may be accessed. It also reports on new results from recent surveys in Québec and from the reanalysis of archival samples. In addition, the authors demonstrate how the data can be used to produce first-order exploration targets as part of a comprehensive assessment of the mineral potential of Québec.

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SPECIAL ISSUE OF GEEA

Volume 11 of AAG's journal, *GEOCHEMISTRY: EXPLORATION, ENVIRONMENT, ANALYSIS* (November 2011), is the first to be devoted to surficial sediment indicator mineral techniques applied to mineral exploration. In this issue, papers describe the application of indicator minerals to exploration for base metals, gold, platinum-group elements, and diamonds.

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A CALL FOR LABORATORY SUPPORT...

The Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG) invites analytical laboratories to participate in pairing their analytical facilities with student projects to develop emerging geochemists and their science. The AAG Education Committee is seeking analytical laboratories to offer in-kind support to students in terms of analysis, while receiving acknowledgement on AAG's website and in the Association's *EXPLORE* newsletter.

If your laboratory is interested in learning more about this program, please contact the Chair of AAG's Education Committee, Erick Weiland ErickWeiland@Terra-Technology.com

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