THIS ISSUE

Next time you see or hear a news report about the price of copper or plug your cellphone into an electrical outlet, perhaps you will think about supergene metal deposits. These deposits are the primary sources for the metals (e.g. Al, Fe, Cu) that we use to build and maintain society. Our thoughts about ore deposits are often focused on exploration, mining operations, metal prices, and metal availability. However, as the articles in this issue will reveal, supergene metal deposits are more than sources for critical metals. These deposits can also be "mined" for information about climate evolution, archeology, corrosion science, geomicrobiology, and so much more. Supergene metal deposits are valuable resources in more ways than one!

FROM THE *ELEMENTS'* EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Once per year, representatives from the 17 participating societies of the *Elements* family meet in person for the annual Executive Committee (EC) meeting. This year, nine society representatives or their substitutes (see photo) attended the meeting on Sunday, 16 August, preceding the 2015 Goldschmidt Geochemistry Conference in Prague, Czech Republic. The EC's primary responsibility is for the financial oversight of *Elements* magazine, which includes an array of associated issues. The EC is pleased to report that *Elements* is on sound financial footing, a welcome change from the early days when many required tasks were donated by society employees. Thanks to the diligent efforts of our founding Executive Editor, Pierrette Tremblay, and our current Executive Editor, Jodi Rosso, to minimize costs and to budget conservatively, *Elements* is financially secure. The transition of Executive Editors was seamless and less costly than anticipated. As such, the contribution for being in the *Elements* family has not increased in the past four years and, for the immediate future, no increase is anticipated. Our largest sources of revenue derive from the contributions of participating societies, advertising, and downloads via GeoScienceWorld. Looking to the future, we anticipate a revamping of the *Elements* website, making it easier to link to our advertisers and to our online content.

The Executive Committee members who attended the 2015 Annual EC meeting, Prague, Czech Republic. Shown standing (left to right) are Kevin Murphy (for Mark Hodson, MSGBI), Tom Bullen (IAGC), Jacinta Enzweiler (for Michael Wiedenbeck, IAG), and Klaus Mezger (DMG). Shown seated (left to right) are Heather Jamieson (MAC), Barb Dutrow (EC Chair, MSA), and Juan Jimenez Millan (SEM). Not pictured are Piotr Kowalski (for Marek Michalik, MSP) and Sasha Krot (for Cari Corrigan, MetSoc).

In addition to our annual meeting, the EC conducts its business via conference calls twice per year—in the Fall and Spring—across 14 time zones! Votes are taken via email so that all representatives have an opportunity to share their opinion. The dedicated EC members are the critical linkage between *Elements* and the societies. They keep the societies' interests at the forefront while maintaining an open line of communication between *Elements* and the societies. Several new EC members have joined and several long-serving EC members have moved off. I am grateful for all of their insights, ideas, humor, and service to *Elements*. Should you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, please contact a society representative listed on the masthead page.

Barb Dutrow, Chair
Elements Executive Committee

Congratulations to Joaquin Bastias, a PhD student from the University of Geneva (Switzerland). At the 2015 Goldschmidt in Prague, he was the raffle winner for a collection of issues from *Elements* inaugural year (2005).

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

2015 IMA MEDAL TO RODNEY C. EWING

The International Mineralogical Association is honored to present its 2015 Medal of Excellence in Mineralogical Sciences to **Rodney C. Ewing**.

Rodney C. Ewing is a professor in the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences in the School of Earth Sciences at Stanford University, and he is the Frank Stanton Professor in Nuclear Security in the Center for International Security and Cooperation at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

Rodney C. Ewing is an intellectual pioneer. No scientist has made a greater contribution to our understanding of mineralogical solutions to the safe disposal of high-level nuclear waste and none have been more influential in developing the theoretical and experimental methods for studying the interactions between ionizing radiation and prospective storage materials. His eminence in the field of nuclear materials led to his appointment by US President Barack Obama to head the US Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, the first mineralogist to lead this board.

Ewing has authored and coauthored over 650 research publications and edited or coedited 18 monographs, journal special issues, and proceedings volumes. He has published in some 100 different ISI journals on such subjects as long-term stability of nuclear waste forms; actinide mineralogy, crystal chemistry and geochemistry; mobility of radionuclides in the geological environment; nanocomposite materials; risk analysis in evaluating the safety of geologic repositories; and the development of policies for the protection of human health and the environment. He holds a patent for the development of a highly durable material for the immobilization of excess weapons plutonium. He is a founding editor of our very own *Elements*, which is now supported by 17 Earth science societies and associations.

Rod Ewing has received many honors, including the 2002 Dana Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America, the 2006 Lomonosov Gold Medal from the Russian Academy of Sciences, the 1997 and 2002 Hawley Medals from the Mineralogical Association of Canada. He will also receive the 2015 Roebling Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America and the American Geological Institute Medal in Memory of Ian Campbell. He also holds fellowships in the Mineralogical Society of America and seven other professional associations.

Please visit cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/people/rodney_c_ewing for more information on Rodney Ewing, his research, and his other activities. A plenary lecture and presentation ceremony will be held at the 2nd European Mineralogical Conference in Rimini (Italy); on 11–15 September 2016 (see emc2016.socminpet.it).

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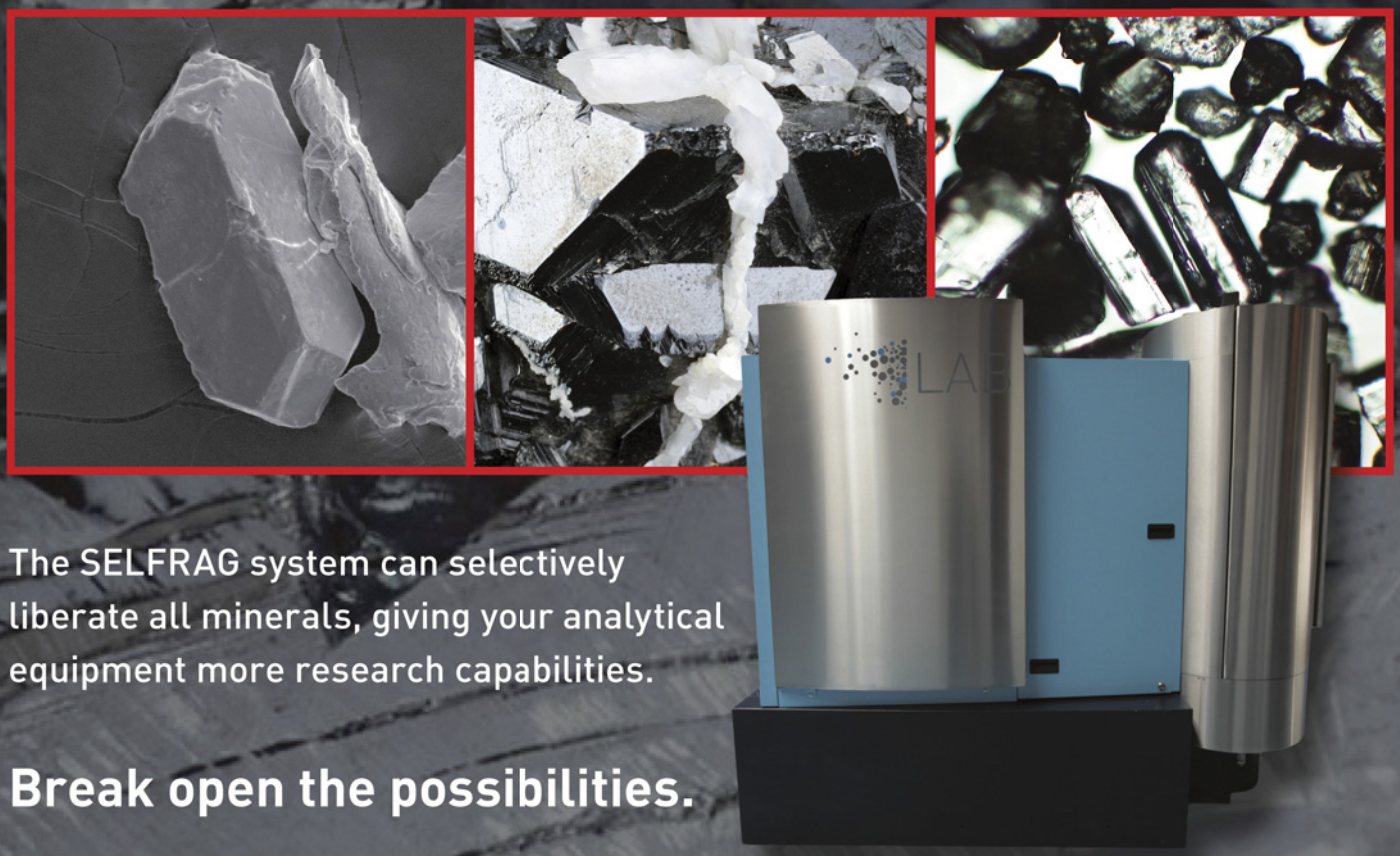

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