

FROM THE PRESIDENT



François Holtz

Dear Members of the DMG,

The Second European Mineralogical Conference, also known as the emc²⁰¹⁶ meeting, will be held 11–15 September 2016 in Rimini (Italy). And activity is starting to heat up. Almost 700 abstracts have been submitted, and these will be organized into parallel sessions that will cover the whole range of mineralogical disciplines (emc2016.socminpet.it). The meeting is organized by the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology (SIMP). Several European mineralogical societies, including the DMG, will take advantage of the Rimini conference to hold their annual member meetings at it. The European Mineralogical Union (EMU) and the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) will also have several business meetings during emc²⁰¹⁶.

As the second conference of its type (the first one took place in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2012), it will offer the opportunity to have exchanges on the role of mineralogy in the geosciences in different European countries. From the list of submitted abstracts, it seems that the research fields covered by the different national societies are not identical. I was surprised to see that, in a country with several active volcanoes, very few Italian colleagues are participating in sessions focusing on the geochemistry and mineralogy of volcanic and related magmatic systems. Evidently, there are different national conceptions of mineralogy and its associated research fields. I think that Rimini will offer a good platform for the representatives of European national societies, the EMU, and the IMA to discuss diversity across the discipline of mineralogy, something that has, perhaps, not yet been fully appreciated either by mineralogists themselves or by the wider scientific community.

I invite all DMG members to participate in our society's annual business meeting, which will be held 13 September 2016 at 12:30 h during emc²⁰¹⁶. There will be a minor revision of our bylaws, and the DMG board plans to put forward names for honorary membership. This has to be approved by at least 4/5 of the present members. I myself will report on the activities of the DVGeo (our new umbrella organization which represents geologists, geophysicists, mineralogists, and paleontologists).

The emc²⁰¹⁶ meeting will offer all of us the opportunity to attend the talk by Eva Stüeken (Woods Hole, USA), who received the Victor Moritz Goldschmidt Prize in 2015. We can also congratulate the new medalists: Gerhard Brey (petrologist and geochemist; professor at Frankfurt University until 2015), who received the Abraham Gottlob Werner Medal in silver, and Ulrich Förstner (applied and environmental mineralogy; professor at TU Hamburg-Harburg until 2005) who received the Georg Agricola Medal. Both Aurelia Zirner (University of Bonn, Germany) and Maria Stuff (GFZ Potsdam, Germany) received the 2015 Paul Ramdohr Award. The name of the young scientist who may get the 2016 Victor Moritz Goldschmidt Prize is not yet known, but I am confident that a person will be selected among the excellent candidates who have been nominated (deadline was May 31).

I will be at Rimini during the whole meeting, as will other members of the DMG board. Don't hesitate to contact us for any question relevant to the DMG. We are open to any suggestions or problems that the DMG can help to solve. As usual, the society will be continuously present at the DMG booth under the kind and efficient supervision of Heidi Höfer and Klaus-Dieter Grevel.

And remember ... new student members benefit from reduced meeting fees. See you in Rimini!

François Holtz (DMG President)

SHORT COURSE REPORT

Applications of Solid State NMR Spectroscopy in Geosciences

After 16 years, one can justifiably start to speak about a tradition. So it was that, once again, Dr. Michael Fechtelkord (Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany) enthusiastically introduced the quantum mechanical principles of solid state nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy and its possible applications in mineralogy and material sciences to interested students from the German cities of Regensburg, Freiberg, Karlsruhe, Weimar, Jena, and, of course, Bochum, plus Salzburg (Austria).



Dr. Michael Fechtelkord (Ruhr University Bochum) and participants of the 16th nuclear magnetic resonance DMG short course in front of the institute's Bruker ASX 400.

The 16th DMG short course on solid-state NMR, held 17–20 May 2016 at the Institute of Geology, Mineralogy and Geophysics of the Ruhr University Bochum, covered a wide range of topics that was suitable both for NMR beginners and for more advanced practitioners. Starting with a solid theoretical foundation on NMR spectroscopy, Dr. Fechtelkord introduced the students to ¹H spin-lattice relaxation, magnetic dipolar interactions, the magic angle spinning (MAS) method, 2-D multi-pulse techniques, cross-polarization MAS (CPMAS), double rotation (DOR), multiple quantum MAS (MQMAS) and satellite transition spectroscopy (SATRAS). Each day was split between a theoretical and a practical session, where the participants could actively implement their theoretical knowledge on the institute's Bruker ASX 400. Optionally, students had the opportunity to earn 3 credit points (ECTS) for a passed exam.

I would like to thank Dr. Fechtelkord for this terrific and perfectly organized short course, in which he gave a comprehensive (and comprehensible) introduction to this complex and versatile method and also proved spectroscopic NMR investigations can be a vital tool in mineralogy and material sciences.

Ralph Michael Bolanz (Jena)

SIMS SHORT COURSE 2016

*Helmholtz-Zentrum Potsdam, Deutsches GeoForschungsZentrum – GFZ
7–11 November 2016*

This short course will provide students (including post-docs or other researchers) with a solid grounding in secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS) and they will get the opportunity to use the Potsdam Cameca 1280-HR user-facility. Other analytical geochemists with a general interest in SIMS technology are also welcome to sign-up. Participants will learn the fundamentals of vacuum technology, the theory of secondary ion generation and matrix effects, data assessment and be given a realistic assessment of this technique's strengths and limitations.

The course will be guided by Dr. Michael Wiedenbeck at the Helmholtz Zentrum Potsdam–Deutsches GeoForschungsZentrum in the lecture rooms of Haus H. In addition, there will be an optional trip to Dresden and Leipzig from Sunday, 13th November through Tuesday, 15th November 2016 in order to visit the other facilities within the Helmholtz SIMS network. For further information and registration: michael.wiedenbeck@gfz-potsdam.de, gfz-potsdam.de/SIMS/short-course/.