

## Editorial comments from the incoming Chief Editor, May 2018



As many of you are no doubt aware, pursuant to Kurt Kyser's untimely passing, the Association of Applied Geochemists and the Geological Society of London conducted a search for his successor as Chief Editor of *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis*. I applied, was offered the position, and accepted. I will start handling newly submitted manuscripts on 1 August 2018 while Gwendy Hall will see all manuscripts submitted between now and then through to publication. The goal is for me to take over completely as Chief Editor by 1 January 2019. I am very excited about the prospect of leading *GEEA* and continuing the excellent work of my predecessors.

Let me provide you with a little information on my background and experience. I received my BA in Geology and Chemistry from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, in 1980 and my PhD in Geology in 1985 from Princeton University, New Jersey. I have held faculty positions at McGill University, the University of Idaho, and North Dakota State University. During my last 5 years at Idaho and the past 6 years at NDSU, I served in a primarily administrative role as Dean. My research has focused on the geochemistry of water–rock interactions related to mineral deposits, environmental issues, and geothermal energy with particular emphasis on the aqueous geochemistry of the platinum-group and rare earth elements. Along



with my students and colleagues, I have published more than 120 refereed articles and supervised 20 MSc and PhD theses on these topics. My experience as a scientific editor includes stints as an Associate Editor of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* (11 years), Founding Editor-in-Chief of *Geochemical Transactions* (7 years), and Special Publications Editor of the Geochemical Society (10 years). I hope that this experience will stand me in good stead as I take over the reins of *GEEA*.

In the coming months I will be writing more in these pages about my vision for the future of *GEEA*. I do not anticipate major changes, but there may be some tweaks in the editorial structure and workflow. A major overarching goal will be to increase further the visibility and impact of the journal. To develop tactics and strategies to accomplish this goal, I will be consulting with members of the *GEEA* Editorial Board, the leadership of the Association of Applied Geochemists, the staff at the Geological Society of London, and the broader geochemistry community. I do expect that many of the initiatives we take on will bear considerable similarity to those outlined in Kurt Kyser's editorial in *GEEA* (<https://doi.org/10.1144/geochem2016-001>), namely:

- (1) Enhance the distinction of the journal from apparently similar journals.
- (2) Increase the visibility of *GEEA*.
- (3) Attract higher quality papers.
- (4) Improve logistics.
- (5) Appeal to the 'next generation' of authors.
- (6) Invite key people to contribute review articles.
- (7) Invite contributions from pairs of researchers, in which one author is experienced but not necessarily driven to publish and the other is someone who should publish as part of their career.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the hard work of those folks who have established the journal and built a strong foundation from which it can achieve even greater heights. As founding Chief Editor, Gwendy Hall played a crucial role in building the reputation of the journals and guiding it through its first 15 years, and more recently has stepped in to keep things going after Kurt Kyser passed unexpectedly. Although his time leading the journal was short, Kurt continued to move it forward in a positive direction. It is my hope that I can live up to the quality of accomplishments of my two predecessors. I'd also like to thank Benedetto De Vivo, Matthew Leybourne, and John Carranza for all that they have done for the journal, as well as the Associate Editors and the Editorial Board. Finally, the publication of the journal would be quite impossible without the talent and hard work of the Geological Society of London's staff, especially Production Editor Jessica Pollitt, who keeps the "trains running on time".

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