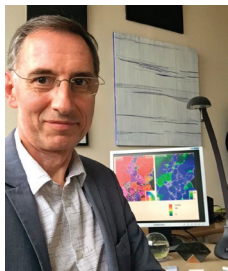




[www.ima-mineralogy.org](http://www.ima-mineralogy.org)

## BRINGING THE GLOBAL MINERALOGICAL COMMUNITY TOGETHER



Patrick Cordier

The year 2018 was an important one for mineralogists. Every four years, all of us from around the world – in spirit if not in body – gather together for the General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA). Melbourne (Australia) was selected to play host to the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting of the IMA, which was held 13–17 August 2018. This meeting was a very important highlight in the life of our association: 600 colleagues from 38 different countries responded to the invitation of Stuart Mills, Chair of IMA 2018 (Mills and Missen 2018). In Melbourne, Peter C. Burns passed the symbolic wheel of presidency (Fig. 1) to me, and so I began my turn as the 18<sup>th</sup> President of the IMA for the now traditional two-year term. We held three council meetings and two, widely attended, business meetings where IMA affairs were discussed, the activities of the six existing IMA Commissions (<https://www.ima-mineralogy.org/comm-work.htm>) were reviewed, and a new working group on asbestos-related issues was launched. On this occasion, the new IMA Council was elected:

President	Patrick Cordier (France)
Past-President	Peter C. Burns (USA)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Anhuai Lu (China)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Razvan Caracas (France)
Secretary	Hans-Peter Schertl (Germany)
Treasurer	David L. Bish (USA)
Comm. Officer	Anton R. Chakhmouradian (Canada)
Councillors	Jane A. Gilotti (USA), Catherine A. McCammon (Germany), Marco Pasero (Italy), Mark Welch (UK), Sergey Smirnov (Russia)

Emil Makovicky (Copenhagen University, Denmark) received the 2017 IMA Medal and presented a lecture on the mineralogy of thallium sulfosalts. The IMA Medal is awarded for excellence in mineralogical research, as represented by a career-long record of outstanding scientific contributions in the field of mineral sciences. It is considered one of the pre-eminent awards in mineralogical research and represents a lifetime achievement award. It is important to remember that an award not only benefits its recipient but also the mineralogical community as a whole. By highlighting the recipient's best achievements, awards are also an inspiration and set the bar for others to match and even to exceed. So, *please take the time to honor the accomplishments of your valued colleagues by nominating them*. With everyone's help, we can ensure that the Medal Committee will have a diverse and most deserving pool of candidates. Nominators can be either individual members of any mineralogical society or group, or their appointed National



The IMA 'Wheel of Presidency'.

Representative. Nominations for the IMA Medal must be submitted to the Committee Chair by 1 April 2020. Practical information on the contents of a nomination package and procedure can be found on the IMA website, at [www.ima-mineralogy.org/Medal\\_nominations.htm](http://www.ima-mineralogy.org/Medal_nominations.htm).

Founded in 1958, the IMA is the world's largest organization promoting mineralogy. Thirty-nine national mineralogical societies or groups are presently members of the association. However, there are still many blanks on the world map that are outside of the IMA's reach, especially on the African continent, where mineral resources are so important. Promoting the development of a worldwide mineralogical community is one of the principal missions of the IMA. For a national mineralogical society, joining the IMA will provide the opportunity to gain international visibility and forge collaborations on a truly global scale. In some cases, there may be interest in joining the IMA but a national mineralogical society has not been established because a critical mass has not been reached. It is even more important for our colleagues from those countries to find a way to assemble, for instance, by creating a section, group, or a subgroup within a larger learned society. The current IMA membership includes several such groups (Novák 2016; Christy and Downes 2018). The IMA is willing to help initiate such groups in order to ensure the most inclusive representation possible worldwide.

The importance of mineralogy in the natural resource sector and environmental studies makes it a cornerstone of modern science. Every country is concerned. And we encourage those currently outside the IMA's orbit to join us and to contribute to the advancement of our discipline.

**Patrick Cordier**, IMA President

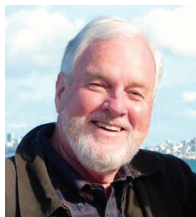
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# International Mineralogical Association

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Gordon Brown

The IMA is honored to present its 2018 Medal of Excellence in Mineralogical Sciences to Gordon E. Brown. Gordon is the Dorrell William Kirby Professor Emeritus of Geology (Stanford University, California, USA) and Professor Emeritus of Photon Science at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) (California, USA). His contributions to environmental geochemistry, mineralogy and surface science have received international recognition. He has authored or

co-authored over 400 refereed publications, achieving a remarkable h-index of 103.

Following his undergraduate years at Millsaps College (Mississippi, USA), Gordon received an MSc (1968) and a PhD (1970) degrees from Virginia Tech (USA). As a postdoctoral fellow (1970–1971) in the State University of New York at Stony Brook (USA) he carried out X-ray studies of lunar samples from NASA's Apollo missions and perfected high-*T* single-crystal X-ray diffraction techniques. In 1973, after two years as a faculty member at Princeton University (New Jersey, USA), Gordon moved to Stanford, where he developed an internationally acclaimed program in environmental, surface and aqueous geochemistry. Gordon, his students and collaborators developed synchrotron radiation-based spectroscopic and imaging methods and applied them to a range of geochemical and mineralogical problems. They pioneered X-ray absorption spectroscopy studies of the local structural environments of atoms in minerals, glasses, melts, and at mineral-solution interfaces, as well as in situ X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy studies of mineral reactions

with water. The use of synchrotron radiation enabled Gordon's group to conduct ground-breaking research on molecular-level speciation of As, Se, Hg, U and other contaminants at mine and nuclear waste disposal sites, and on the structure and properties of natural and engineered nanoparticles. Most recently, he and his collaborators have examined CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration via mineral carbonation and chemical reactions of fracking fluids with minerals and natural organic matter in oil and gas reservoirs. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this work to environmental stewardship and to the responsible recovery of hydrocarbons.

Gordon's research has been recognized through many prestigious awards, including the Hallimond Lecture (Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, 1993/4), the Hawley Medal (Mineralogical Association of Canada, 2007), the Clair C. Patterson Award (Geochemical Society, 2007), the Roebling Medal (Mineralogical Society of America, 2007), the Ian Campbell Medal (American Geosciences Institute, 2012), and foreign membership of Academia Europaea (2013).

Gordon has also made an outstanding contribution to the support and advancement of science in his roles as co-director of the US National Science Foundation's (NSF) Center for Materials Research (1987–1989), Chair of the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences at Stanford (1986–1992, 2012–2015) and of the Department of Photon Science at the Stanford Linear Accelerator (SLAC) (1998–2007), Director of the Stanford-based NSF Environmental Molecular Science Institute (2004–2011), and as a member of many evaluation and steering panels – including as Principal Editor of *Elements* (2014–2017).

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