

## Preface

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There is considerable scientific consensus about climatic and environmental changes with resulting concerns about the ability of human communities to adapt. But the extant literature does not reflect at length on potential impacts for human health from such environmental changes. The papers in this special edition are both timely and appropriate and follow on from the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH) International Conference held in April 2011. The aim of the conference, as with all SEGH events, was to explore the relationships between human health and the great variety of natural and built environments.

Specialists in the environmental geochemical analyses of water, soils, sediments and particulates, together with those from medicine, public health, toxicology and epidemiology, are extremely well placed to investigate such relationships. Indeed, the collaborative research partnerships generated in recent years, together with the peer-reviewed publications, are evidence of this.

In this special edition of the journal, papers explore the geochemistry of road dusts, dusts generated in bushfires, the bioaccessibility of trace elements in playground soils, heavy metals in ground and surface waters and in lakes and wastewater treatments. In all cases, authors tackle the important question of how human health may be affected by the presence of, or movement within environments of, anthropogenic and natural geochemicals.

In addition, we present a paper that evaluates the multi-disciplinary nature of SEGH meetings since 2007 and the value of these to the scientific community, both academic and practitioner.

It is clear there is an urgent need to strengthen the partnerships between health specialists, geochemists and environmental scientists in order to address issues raised by the spectre of global climatic and environmental changes.

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