Editorial

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Physics and Chemistry of Minerals owes its beginnings to a Working Group that was formed in 1974 at the Ninth General Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) to foster interdisciplinary scientific activities between physics and mineralogy. One of the aims of the Working Group was to improve scientific communication, potentially through a new international journal, and 3 years later *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals* was born. Certainly, the focus of the journal has been the publication of scientific papers, but it has also included the communication of information of interest to IMA members, which has ranged over the years from announcements of upcoming IMA meetings to lists of council members,

presidential addresses and even the IMA constitution. While such IMA content no longer appears directly in the journal, paper editions continue to remind readers with the inscription “In Cooperation with the IMA” about the close link between IMA and the journal.

We are pleased to announce new developments within the context of this association. As a result of discussions during the recent Twentieth General Meeting of the IMA in Budapest: (1) the journal will publish a report on the activities of the Commission on the Physics of Minerals every 4 years (coincident with the cycle of IMA meetings), and (2) recipients of the IMA Medal will have the opportunity to publish their IMA Medal Lecture paper in the journal. Under the current agreement between the IMA and Springer, the activity reports and the IMA Medal Lecture papers will be sponsored by Springer as Open Access publications.

The IMA Commission on the Physics of Minerals (CPM) is a direct outgrowth of the original Working Group that played a major role in the birth of the journal. The stated objectives of the CPM are to promote “the application of modern solid state physics to minerals at low and high temperatures as well as at high pressures by workshops, conferences and publications”. Members of the Commission have been active in organising scientific sessions on relevant topics not only at the quadrennial IMA General Meetings, but also at many national and international meetings. To broaden its scope, the CPM recently appointed officers to four sub-commissions: (1) Earth’s deep interior; (2) Glass and melt studies and their applications to geosciences and industry; (3) Spectroscopy, diffraction and new instrumentation in mineral physics; and (4) Theoretical and computational mineral physics. Through its increased manpower, the CPM will be able to more effectively showcase new scientific results and developments, and you will be able to read reports of their efforts on these pages.

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The IMA Medal was established in 2006 as a lifetime achievement award to recognise excellence in mineralogical research and is currently bestowed every 2 years. Coupled to the IMA Medal is a lecture by the recipient on a topic related to the award, which the recipient can write up as a paper and submit to a suitable international journal of mineralogy. Three IMA Medals have been presented so far: Charles T. Prewitt, Frank C. Hawthorne, and most recently David H. Green.

We are pleased to announce the debut of the IMA Medal Lecture paper in the final issue of 2012. Frank Hawthorne, the recipient of the second IMA Medal, presented a review of his work on Bond Topology. The paper was subjected to the same fair and thorough peer review process used by the journal to maintain high standards of science and presentation, and it was published as Open Access, which means the article is freely available to everyone and the author retains copyright of his work.

With this issue, we bid farewell to Masanori Matsui, who has served the journal tirelessly for nearly 8 years. His

energetic attention to scientific and technical detail has been exceptional and has greatly contributed to maintaining the high quality of the journal. We very much appreciate all of his effort over the years, and we wish him all the best in future endeavours. In his place, we welcome Taku Tsuchiya, who continues the tradition of bringing strong computational expertise to the research fields represented by the editors. In closing, we would like to thank former editors, authors, reviewers, readers, advisory board members and everyone else who has helped to advance the high scientific standards of the journal, and also everyone at Springer who has supported us in working towards our scientific goals.

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