

Dear Readers

Bob Kleinmann¹

© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2015

Dear Readers,

I am writing this in Santiago, after a very successful conference. The organizers did a wonderful job! Over 400 attendees from 32 countries enjoyed an excellent selection of oral and poster presentations and the fantastic hospitality of our Chilean hosts. Moreover, holding the IMWA annual meeting in conjunction with ICARD worked extremely well; the only difficulty people had was choosing which interesting paper to listen to. Given the success of the meeting, the executive committees of IMWA and the International Network of Acid Prevention (INAP) have decided to once again join forces in 2018, when ICARD will be held in conjunction with IMWA's annual meeting, which was already scheduled to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

At the closing ceremony, John Waterhouse (IMWA President) announced the best student presentations and the associated awards of 1500 and 500 EURO to:

1st prize, Laura Laurenzi: **Laurenzi, Laura; Mayer, K. Ulrich; Beckie, Roger** (2015): A Metal Attenuation Study on Waste Rock Collected from the East Dump, Antamina Mine, Peru: A Combined Mineralogical and Geochemical Approach; and

2nd prize, Maria Mäkitalo: **Mäkitalo, Maria; Mácsik, J.; Maurice, C.; Öhlander, B.** (2015): Improving Till by Adding Green Liquor Dregs in Sealing Layers to Control AMD—A Pilot Study.

Also, all of the students who presented papers at the conference will receive a free IMWA membership. In addition, I had the pleasure of announcing the winners of the best paper published in this journal last year (2014), as decided by our

International Editorial Board and Michel Aubertin, for their paper: Effect of Dense Material Layers on Unsaturated Water Flow Inside a Large Waste Rock Pile—A Numerical Investigation, pp 24–38 (published in the March issue).

Unfortunately, while previously recognizing all of our reviewers, editorial board, I forgot to thank our translators (all of whom are IMWA volunteers): Changshen Wang translates all of our published papers' abstracts into Chinese, Edgardo Donati does the same for Spanish, and Jorn Geleneky, Michael Paul, Walter Pohl, Martin Schultze, Kai Silabetschky, and Wilfred Uhlman take turns translating our abstracts into German. All of these translated abstracts appear with the on-line version of the papers. In case you were not aware of it, all of you who are members of IMWA can access the on-line versions of all papers published in our journal for the past 15 years for free. In addition, you get to see the papers months earlier than they appear in print, as well as the supplemental figures and tables that you see referred to in some of our papers.

Also, our staff of associate editors has expanded. Of the many volunteers who have been trying on the associate editor duties on a provisional basis, Rob Bowell, Rodrigo Embile, Jr., Massimo Gasparon, Tiernan Henry, Ashley Jones, Ann Maest, Kym Morton, Dyllon Randall, Piere Rosseau, Gideon Steyl, Christie Terrel, Teresa Valente, and Qiang Wu have all withstood the onslaught and have agreed to stay on as associate editors. They should now all be listed on the inside front cover, along with those past associate editors who have agreed to continue to serve in that capacity. All of them deserve my and your gratitude; I assure you that I could not do this job without them.

Finally, I present the papers of this issue, again spanning a spectrum of mine hydrology, geochemistry, modeling, water treatment, mineralogy, and environmental aspects. I am sure that you will find them interesting.

✉ Bob Kleinmann
editor@MWEN.info

¹ Pittsburgh, PA, USA