

Preface

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The 9th ISEG—International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry was held during 15–21 July, 2012, in Aveiro (Portugal).

This Symposium was sponsored by the University of Aveiro, the GeoBioTec Research Centre, the Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies and supported by the IAGC—International Association of Geochemistry, the SEGH—Society of Environmental Geochemistry and Health and the IMGA—International Medical Geology Association.

The aim of the conference was to provide opportunities for participants to share their research experiences, results, ideas, review of various aspects and practical development experiences on a wide range of scientific fields, such as geochemistry, biology, engineering, geology, hydrology, epidemiology, chemistry, medicine, nutrition and toxicology.

The conference was organized into 11 sessions related to the following thematic areas: Geochemical records of environmental changes: climate changes and human activities; Sustainability in Mining and Related Environmental Issues; Geochemistry and Health and Medical Geology; Environmental Toxicology and Epidemiology; Environmental contamination and remediation; Water resources and aquatic environments; Biogeochemistry of trace elements,

organic pollutants and radio-nuclides; Environmental Analytical Geochemistry; Modeling Environmental Systems: GIS platforms and Data Analysis; Perception and communication of environmental health risks and social inequality and also the OHM (Observatoire Hommes-Millieux)—special session.

The 9th ISEG has received considerable national and international attention. The Organizing Committee has compiled an interesting program of oral and poster sessions. Over 243 participants representing 30 countries, such as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iran, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, The Netherlands, Turkey, Venezuela, United Kingdom and United States of America have attended this Symposium. A total of 226 abstracts (128 oral contributions and 132 posters) were submitted. This International Symposium has successfully proven, again, to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the discussion of recent advances in environmental geochemistry and health.

In view of enormous diversity of topics, the Organisers of 9th ISEG—International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry decided to publish original papers based on topics “Trace elements, organic pollutants, radio-nuclides, minerals and gases in environmental health and disease.”

The following team worked as referees of the submitted manuscripts: François De Vleeschouwer,

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Fernando Tavares Rocha, Andrew Hursthouse, Meri Barbaferi, Alex Stewart, Alex Charlton, Jorge Sousa, Frank Swartjes, Nelly Mañay, Julia Garcia Lestón, Joana Wragg, Vanessa Valdiglesias, David Polya, José Centeno, Mário Gonçalves, Bernardino Figueiredo, Paula Ávila, Cassio Roberto da Silva, Emilio Galán, Mark Cave, Christine Davidson, Alecos Demetriades and Howard Mielke. As the Guest Editors, we are highly grateful who did an excellent and also a timely job for this volume.

We also express our gratitude to the Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Environmental Geochemistry and Health for the opportunity to publish the papers as a special issue and to the colleague Betty van Herk for all support given during in the process.

The Guest-Editors