Still a source of valuable insights

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I am often asked by researchers unfamiliar with *Gold Bulletin*, ‘why?’ and ‘when?’ the journal began to be published. They are usually surprised by my answer because *Gold Bulletin* actually dates back to 1968. The first issue of the journal, published by the Chamber of Mines in South Africa, was introduced with the words “... despite the relative cost of gold, it has certain unique properties which can be put to use in numerous fields”. Although the science and technology has evolved, this sentiment that is still very true today.

The publication of *Gold Bulletin* was undertaken to highlight the opportunities to use gold in new innovative ways, with the expectation that by giving this promising new science the ‘oxygen of publicity’, commercial applications were more likely to follow. Today, Springer publishes *Gold Bulletin* as an Open Access journal, through the kind support of the World Gold Council. The original objective in publishing the journal remains the same. The 44 volumes of *Gold Bulletin* that have been produced since 1968 form a unique body of information on the science, technology and applications of gold. The large number of downloaded papers (thousands every month) confirms that this information is sought after and remains a source of valuable insights.

Later this year, many of the researchers from academia and industry who use *Gold Bulletin* both as a source of insight and a means to disseminate their research, will gather in Tokyo during September for the 6th International Conference on

Gold Science, Technology and its Applications (for further details see www.gold2012.org). The invited speakers for this unique event are now confirmed and registration is now open. This will be the first time that this conference series has visited Asia. It will be fascinating to discover the gold research hotspots in this region. Those of you planning on attending the event and presenting your research, please do consider *Gold Bulletin* as another means to disseminate your research. Manuscript submission is very straightforward via the online system <https://www.editorialmanager.com/gold/>.

It just remains for me to confirm that this issue of *Gold Bulletin* represents my last as Editor of the journal. Dr. Trevor Keel, currently Associate Editor of this journal now assumes responsibility for the publication and, with the support of the Editorial Board, I am sure he will lead it from strength to strength. Please support the Editorial team with high-quality manuscript submissions in the coming months. I will continue to very much enjoy reading the publication in order to learn about new advances in gold science, leading to new uses for the metal.

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