

## News at a Glance

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### **1. Slate of candidates for various positions in IUGS**

The Biography and Statement of the candidates for IUGS Executive Committee (2024-2028) and IUGS Nominating Committee (2024-2028) have been published on the IUGS website (<https://www.iugs.org/election2024>).

The Fifth Ordinary Session of IUGS-IGC Council will be held on August 28-29th, 2024 in the conjunction with the 37th International Geological Congress in Busan, South Korea. IUGS National Committees/Adhering Organizations will send delegates to the Council Meeting and cast their votes at the election of IUGS EC and NC members. Please click the link <https://www.iugs.org/election2024> to read the Biography and Statement of the candidates.

## 2. News from the Subcommittee on Cretaceous Stratigraphy

The dedication ceremonies for the Hauterivian and Albian Global boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) were held on June 29, 2024 in Arnayon and La Charce (Southwest France).

The ceremonies were organized by the International Subcommittee on Cretaceous Stratigraphy [<https://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org/>] with the active help of Stéphane Reboulet (University of Lyon) and people of the Department of Drôme. Maria Rose Petrizzo (chair of the International Subcommittee on Cretaceous Stratigraphy), David Harper (chair of the International Commission of Stratigraphy), Jörg Mutterlose (chair of Hauterivian Working Group), Andy Gale (member of the Albian Working Group), Francesca Falzoni and Ian Jarvis (respectively secretary and member of the International Subcommittee on Cretaceous Stratigraphy) attended the ceremonies.

The GSSP that defines the base of the Hauterivian Stage [<https://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org/gssps/hauterivian>] was ratified by the IUGS in December 2019 (Mutterlose et al. 2021), [Episodes, <https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?uid=2175&vmd=Full>]. The GSSP for the base of the Hauterivian Stage of the Cretaceous is defined at the base of bed no. 189 of the La Charce section, Drôme, southeast France (Vocontian Basin). This level is marked by the first appearance of the ammonite genus *Acanthodiscus*, which defines the base of the *Acanthodiscus radiatus* ammonite Zone. Complementary data include 13 ammonite and nannofossil events, and magnetostratigraphic and carbon isotope events.

The GSSP that defines the base of the Albian Stage [<https://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org/gssps/albian>] was ratified by IUGS in April 2016 (Kennedy et al. 2017), [Episodes, <https://www.episodes.org/journal/view.html?volume=40&number=3&spage=177&vmd=Full>]. The GSSP for the base of the Albian Stage of the Cretaceous is defined at the first occurrence datum of the planktonic foraminifera *Microhedbergella renilaevis* at a level 37.4 meters above the base of the Marnes Bleues Formation and 40 cm above the base of the Niveau Kilian marker bed in the section SSE of the Col de Pré-Guittard, Arnayon, Drôme, France. The first occurrence of *Microhedbergella renilaevis* is placed within a 100-m section of argillaceous sediments with 28 secondary markers including calcareous nannofossils, planktonic foraminifera, an inoceramid bivalve, ammonites, stable carbon isotopes, and local marker beds.

Photos and further details on the attendances are available at [<https://cretaceous.stratigraphy.org/news/hauterivian-albian-ceremonies>]



**Figure1:** The Golden Nail of the Hauterivian GSSP and the the Albian GSSP.



**Figure 2:** From left to right: Jörg Mutterlose, Stéphane Reboulet, Maria Rose Petrizzo, David Harper.

### **3. News from the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)**

#### **IUGS-IFG, Rome, Italy, 21-23 May, 2025**

IUGS-IFG has confirmed a celebratory, 15 years anniversary event, will take place in Rome, on 21-23 May 2024. We have secured a venue of European significance in the heart of Rome ([https://italy.representation.ec.europa.eu/chi-siamo/spazio-europa\\_en](https://italy.representation.ec.europa.eu/chi-siamo/spazio-europa_en)). The practical session will take place on the morning of the third day at The National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV) in Rome (<https://www.ingv.it/>). A call for papers and a dedicated website will be announced shortly, and via the IUGS-IFG website. Other information to be provided will include the costs and logistics. For sponsorship opportunities please contact Rosa Maria DiMaggio ([dimaggio@geologiaforense.com](mailto:dimaggio@geologiaforense.com)) or Matteo Barone ([p.barone@aur.edu](mailto:p.barone@aur.edu)).

#### **Geology Today: Special Issue on Forensic Geology**

The Wiley journal, *Geology Today*, has published a special issue on forensic geology, which is open access using the link below. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/13652451>

#### **Joint Medical and Forensic Geology Session, 37th IGC, Busan, South Korea, 26-27 August 2024**

IUGS-IFG has co-organised a joint Medical and Forensic Geology session, to be held at the International Geological Congress, in Busan, South Korea, held in three separate sub-sessions, on 26 and 27 August 2024. IUGS-IFG will be represented by Laurance Donnelly (Chair), Robert Fitzpatrick (Vice-Chair), Carlos Molina (Co-officer for Latin America) and Jennifer McKinley (Officer for Communications).

#### **Forensic Science, Volume 4, issue 2, June 2024**

We are pleased to announce the latest publication of *Forensic Sciences*. This Special Issue aims to collect high-quality submissions in forensic geology. Those wishing to contribute to a special issue on forensic geology can do via the link below.

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/forensicsci/special\\_issues/215E83UM71?utm\\_campaign=releaseissue\\_forensicsciutm\\_medium=emailutm\\_source=releaseissueutm\\_term=silink5](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/forensicsci/special_issues/215E83UM71?utm_campaign=releaseissue_forensicsciutm_medium=emailutm_source=releaseissueutm_term=silink5)

#### **Cambridge 41st Symposium on Economic Crime, Jesus College, University of Cambridge, UK, 1-8 September 2024**

IUGS-IFG will be represented at the 41st Symposium on Economic Crime, at Cambridge University, UK, 1-8 September. On 5 September, Laurance Donnelly (IUGS-IFG Chair), Duncan Pirrie (IUGS-IFG Secretary) and Ricardo Morea (IUGS-IFG Officer for Illegal Mining and INTERPOL), supported by Fabio Salvador (IUGS-IFG Co-officer for Latin America), will hold a session on gold traceability in the global supply chain. <https://www.crimesymposium.org/>  
<https://www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/research/academic-conferences>

#### **Gold Trafficking in the Sahel**

The link below provides information on gold smuggling in the Sahel countries. This is underpinned by Transnational Organised Crime Groups (TOC) and associated with artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tocta\\_sahel/TOCTA\\_Sahel\\_Gold\\_v5.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tocta_sahel/TOCTA_Sahel_Gold_v5.pdf)

#### 4. News from INHIGEO

##### INHIGEO Anniversary contributions (May 2024)

Occasion: Loess defined 200 years ago

Title: Karl Caesar von Leonhard introduced the term "Loess"

Author: Martina Kölbl-Ebert (Germany)

Two hundred years ago, in 1824, Karl Cäsar von Leonhard published the third volume of his *Charakteristik der Felsarten*, a three-volume catalogue of rock types in which he named, defined and described rocks. Volume 3 dealt with unconsolidated materials, transported sediments as well as disintegrated weathering materials. Among these sediments he described Loeß – or loess in the international spelling.

Please open the link to know more: <http://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries.html>



**Figure 3:** Portrait of Karl Casar von Leonhard (Collection of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; Wikipedia:public domain)

### 5. News from the Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

The IUGS Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB) organised a 4-hour workshop in conjunction with the XI National Geological Congress of Spain (<https://congresogeologicosge.es/>), held in the city of Avila, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, Commission members from Spain (Paula Adánez and Iván Martín (IGME)) and Portugal, (Maria João Batista (LNEG)) were instructors for the short course in Spanish, entitled “*Fases y protocolos a seguir para una red de referencia geoquímica global*” (*Phases and protocols to be followed for a global geochemical reference network*).

The short course introduced the standard sampling methods that should be followed. The global reference network was presented and explained as well as the randomisation of sampling points together with all the supplementary material that the CGGB has available on its webpages to be used for this purpose. Sampling methods were described for the different sampling media included in the Manual (rock, residual soil, humus, stream sediment, stream water and floodplain and overbank sediments). Quality control was explained given the importance of this procedure in any applied geochemistry project. Finally, data levelling was introduced together with examples, in order to provide some hints on how to develop comparable data for producing seamless geochemical maps.

The workshop was attended by 12 professionals from different universities, surveys, institutes and also postgraduate students. The course was well received by the participants and interesting discussions followed.



**Figure 4.** Tutors and organisers of the course: (a) Maria João Batista (left), Iván Martín-Méndez and Paula Adánez-Sanjuan (right); (b) tutors and attendees during the running of the course.

## 6. News from the IUGS-Commission on Geoethics

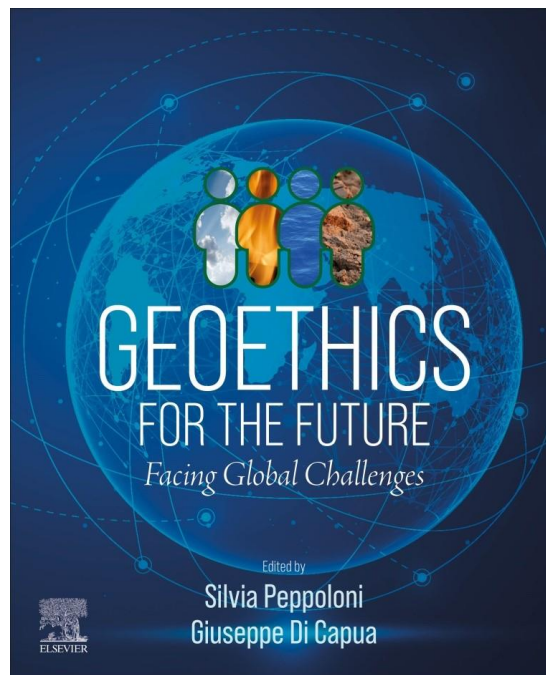
a) The Commission on Geoethics (CG) was represented by Paul Cleverley (CG expert on “Geosciences and Artificial Intelligence”) at the IUGS-sponsored meeting on “Large Language Models in the Geological Sciences”, held at the Geological Society of London (GSL) on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Notes about this event (edited by Maggie Simmons of the GSL) and slides by speakers are available on the IUGS website:

- Notes ([https://www.iugs.org/\\_files/ugd/f1fc07\\_58b7f079bc85434cba7e1889991e40e7.pdf](https://www.iugs.org/_files/ugd/f1fc07_58b7f079bc85434cba7e1889991e40e7.pdf)).
- Slides ([https://www.iugs.org/\\_files/ugd/f1fc07\\_0b3c9ffaf878420389874515b6577fb6.pdf](https://www.iugs.org/_files/ugd/f1fc07_0b3c9ffaf878420389874515b6577fb6.pdf)).

b) A new book on geoethics was released on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

*Silvia Peppoloni and Giuseppe Di Capua, eds. (2024). Geoethics for the Future: Facing Global Challenges. Elsevier, XXXI+401 pp., ISBN 978-0443156540. <https://doi.org/10.1016/C2022-0-00487-6>*

Read more about this book: <https://www.geoethics.org/geoethics-for-the-future-elsevier>



**Figure 5:** Book Cover

c) The International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) has established IAPG-New Zealand. This is the 36th national section of the IAPG and it is also recognized as the Geoethics Special Interest Group within the Geoscience Society of New Zealand (GSNZ). Read more: <https://www.geoethics.org/post/welcome-to-the-new-section-iapg-new-zealand>

d) Geoethics Medal 2024: Call for applications open!

The Geoethics Medal honors scientists and scholars who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to ethical practices in geoscience research and/or practice, as well as its interdisciplinary applications. The

award highlights the importance of responsible and ethical behavior in geosciences and encourages others to integrate geoethical principles into their work.

Nominations have to be submitted by 31 December 2024.

Read more: <https://www.geoethics.org/post/geoethics-medal-2024-call-for-applications-open>

### 7. News from the Commission on Geoheritage

The International Commission on Geoheritage (ICG) of the International Union of Geological Sciences identifies, recognises, and designates significant geological heritage sites, stones, and collections (<https://iugs-geoheritage.org/>). The Subcommittee on Heritage Stones designated 55 stones that have been used in significant architecture and monuments, recognized as integral aspects of human culture, as IUGS Heritage Stones since 2016.

The stones that represent human ingenuity and skill and bear witness to cultures and communities over time are celebrated in this unique book, "The First 55 IUGS Heritage Stones."

*"An IUGS Heritage Stone is an IUGS designated natural stone that has been used in significant architecture and monuments, recognized as integral aspects of human culture."*

ISBN: 978-3-00-078960-8

THE FIRST 55 IUGS HERITAGE STONES

IUGS 2024

## THE FIRST 55 IUGS HERITAGE STONES

International Union of Geological Sciences



**Figure 6:** Book cover of the First 55 IUGS Heritage Stones.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> IUGS Geological Heritage Sites shall be announced at the 37<sup>th</sup> IGC in Busan, Korea.



**Figure 7.** Announcement of 2<sup>nd</sup> 100 IUGS Geological Heritage sites.

**For the IUGS website:** A one-page concise text (up to about 500 words), if possible providing a web-link (e.g. to an IUGS activity website). **Each contribution to the IUGS e-Bulletin, website and/or social media should be marked as to which target medium or media it should be published in. Each contribution should be sent, at the same time, to the following addresses:**

[gurmeet28374@gmail.com](mailto:gurmeet28374@gmail.com) (Editor, e-Bulletin)  
[giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it](mailto:giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it) (Webmaster)  
[yamirka.rojas@ifg.uni-kiel.de](mailto:yamirka.rojas@ifg.uni-kiel.de) (Editor, Social Media)  
[mdaniela.munozg@gmail.com](mailto:mdaniela.munozg@gmail.com) (Social Media)



**Time Frame for submissions to the e-Bulletin:**

1. IUGS sends a reminder to leaders of activities in the middle of each month.
2. Contributions should be provided by the end of every month.
3. IUGS will evaluate all submitted items in terms of urgency and will allocate these to the next monthly issue or a later issue and will also check that these comply with IUGS policy for publications and ethics;
4. The IUGS Publications Committee Team will aim to compile monthly e-Bulletin by the end of the month and send it to the IUGS Secretariat;
5. The IUGS Secretariat will dispatch the e-Bulletin to the IUGS Community on, or in the first week of every month.

This time frame may vary due to public holidays that affect the e-Bulletin Team and IUGS Secretariat such as Christmas and Chinese New Year.

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**NOTES**

- Please check the IUGS [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming scientific meetings. If you require information on international conferences, meetings, etc. to be considered for inclusion in this Calendar please mail to: [giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it](mailto:giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it)
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-Bulletin distribution list, please mail to: [iugs.beijing@gmail.com](mailto:iugs.beijing@gmail.com) or [secretariat@iugs.org](mailto:secretariat@iugs.org)
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- Check the IUGS website: <http://www.iugs.org/>

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