

## Candidate for IUGS Executive Committee

### Position: Treasurer

**Name:** David R. Cohen

**Affiliation:** The University of New South Wales, Sydney

**Nominating Organization:**  
The Australian Academy of Science



### Biography:

I grew up in Sydney and completed a BSc (Hons) in geology at Sydney University. After a year's teaching, I headed to Queen's University in Canada to undertake an MSc before returning to the University of New South Wales and finishing a PhD in 1990. I was subsequently appointed to the UNSW academic staff, rising from lecturer to full professor. During my 33 years on faculty I enjoyed nine years as Head of the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES), following by over six years as the elected President of the UNSW Academic Board, which has overall responsibility for academic quality, degree programs and is the main source of advice on academic matters to the UNSW Council (on which I was *ex officio*). On completing my last term as President, it was time to give opportunity to the next generation and I retired. I was appointed an emeritus professor in 2023, and still supervise PhD students and contribute some teaching.

My main areas of research and industry engagement are exploration and environmental geochemistry, with particular interests in biogeochemical methods and multivariate statistics. This research has taken me around the world, with projects in Cyprus, the US, Canada, Indonesia, Pakistan, New Zealand, Malaysia, the Middle East, Papua New Guinea and Argentina, and collaboration with scientists in many other countries.

I have completed courses in corporate governance and exercised line management responsibilities for 130 staff and an annual operational budget of around AUD 12 million as Head of BEES. In addition to my university work I was President of the Association of Applied Geochemists (2008-2009) and awarded its 2018 Silver Medal, and President of the Australian Geoscience Council (2019-2023) which is the peak body representing Australian geoscience societies. I am a member of the AAS National Committee on the Earth Sciences. I have served on boards of not-for-profit organisations, including winter sports, and undertaken external reviews of governance systems at five academic institutions.

I hold Fellowships with the Royal Society of New South Wales, the Association of Applied Geochemists and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists.

**Statement:**

The geosciences have contributed extensively to our knowledge of Earth and beyond, and are critical in matters ranging from the supply of resources to protection of the environment and management of geological hazards. The geosciences offer many varied and rewarding careers. Yet, we face significant challenges in attracting the next generation of geos and maintaining geoscience offerings and departments in universities. The IUGS is well-placed to continue assisting growth in the geosciences as an important advocate and promoter. The IUGS currently undertakes a range of very worthwhile activities through the commissions and associated bodies, but there is further opportunity to expand its work in other areas that will support the international geoscience community.

I would value the opportunity to serve the international geoscience community and the IUGS in the role of Treasurer. I would bring substantial experience in institutional governance, strategic planning and financial controls, as well as energy and a collegial approach to the role.