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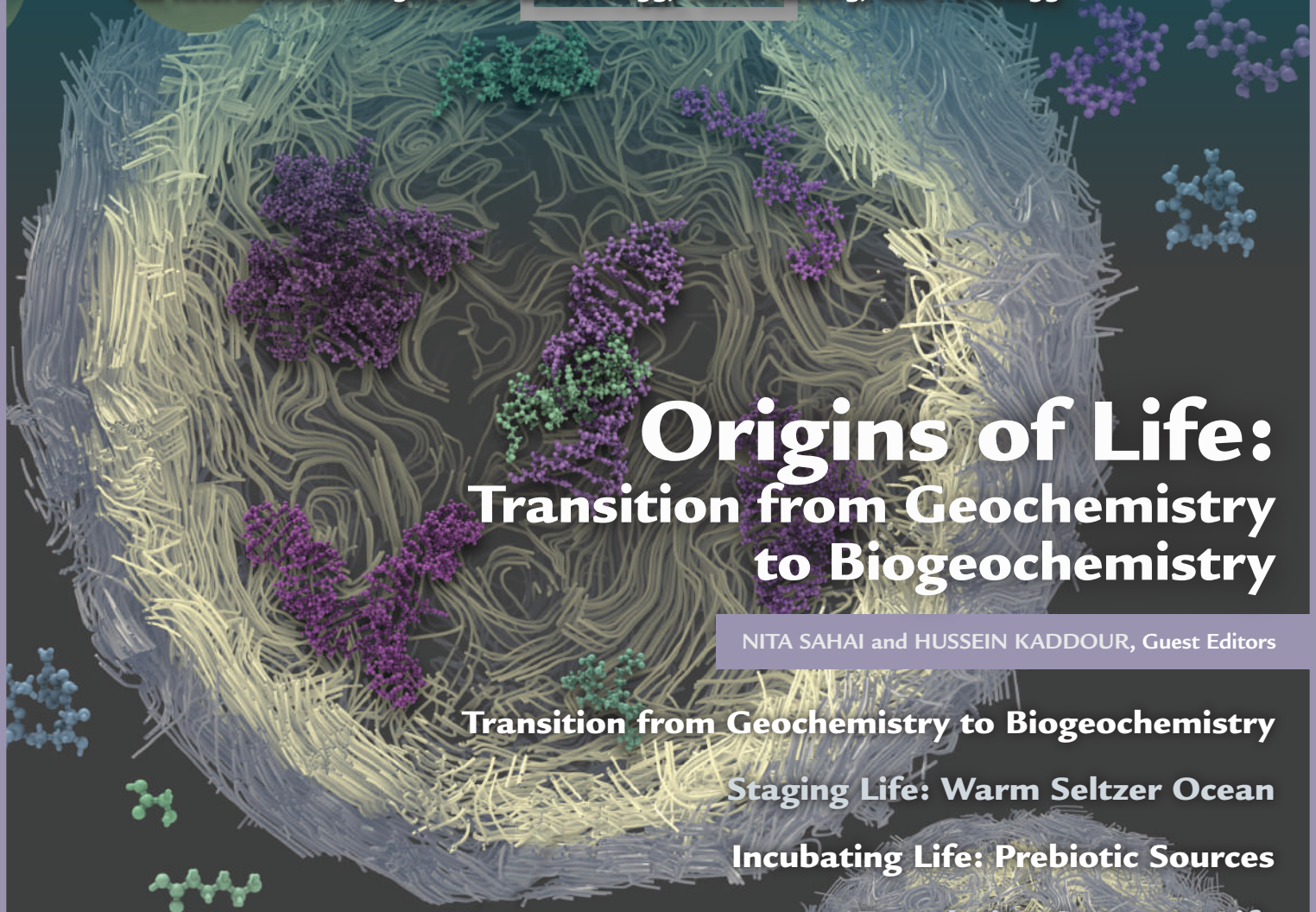
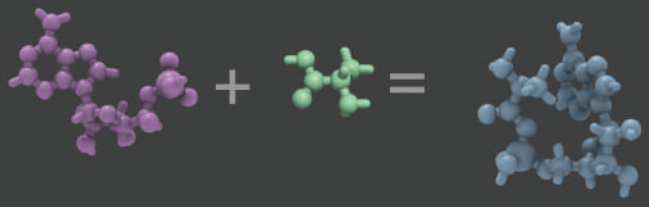
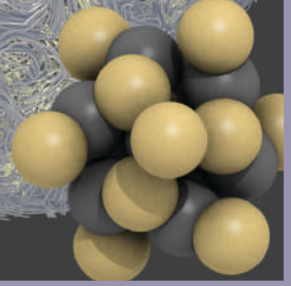


Origins of Life: Transition from Geochemistry to Biogeochemistry

NITA SAHAI and HUSSEIN KADDOUR, Guest Editors





IMA at emc^{2016}

At the 2nd European Mineralogical Conference (emc^{2016}) held in September 2016 in the beautiful Adriatic resort town of Rimini (Italy), Professor Rod Ewing (University of Michigan, USA) was awarded the IMA Medal of Excellence for 2015 (*Elements*, v11 p 300) and gave a plenary lecture on radiation effects in minerals. Also at the conference, the IMA inaugurated its PhD Student Award, which is aimed at supporting young talent in mineralogy and related disciplines (*Elements*, v12, p 133). In addition to a certificate, each awardee receives a travel grant to attend a major international meeting. In 2016, the IMA Council selected three students to sponsor, based on achievements and contributions, to present their research at emc^{2016}. The recipients were Petra Jakubová from Masaryk University (Brno, Czech Republic), Mattia Luca Mazzucchelli from the University of Pavia (Italy) and Liene Spruzeniece from Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia). Petra's research, which was presented at the session "Inclusions in Minerals as Record of Geological Processes", is concerned with the origin of microdiamonds from the North Bohemian granulites (Czech Republic) and involves an impressive array of advanced analytical techniques. Mattia's work also involves high-pressure inclusions but his main objective is to expand the current limits of elastic geobarometry using numerical methods. Liene's research integrates experiments, field studies and electron microscopy to explore fluid–rock interaction in complex systems. Her latest experimental findings on symplectite growth mechanisms were presented at the session "Reading and Understanding Metamorphic Rocks".

IMA Past President Sergey Krivovichev (**far left**) and 1st Vice President and Chair of the PhD Student Award Committee Patrick Cordier (**far right**) with the recipients of the IMA PhD Student Award for 2016: (**L to R**) Petra Jakubová, Mattia Luca Mazzucchelli and Liene Spruzeniece.

The IMA also held two business meetings at Rimini. Patrick Cordier was elected 1st vice president of the IMA and Catherine McCammon and Mark Welch are two new councillors. Sergey Krivovichev passed on the presidential gavel to Peter Burns; Sergey is now past president. We say "Thank You!" to Walter Maresch, who is retiring as past president and who has served the IMA for many years.

The IMA council members at emc^{2016} in Rimini: Anhuai Lu (councillor), Catherine McCammon (councillor), Hans-Peter Schertl (secretary), Patrick Cordier (1st vice president), Peter Burns (president), Walter Maresch (former past president), Marco Pasero (councillor), Sergey Krivovichev (past president), Jane Gilotti (councillor), Stuart Mills (2nd vice president). Not present: Bob Downs (treasurer), Anton Chakhmouradian (communication officer), Mark Welch (councillor)

XXII MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL MINERALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
13-17 AUGUST 2018 | MELBOURNE

Be sure to join us at future IMA General Meetings. In August 2018, the 22nd General Meeting will be held in Melbourne, Australia (www.ima2018.org). In 2022, the 23rd General Meeting will take place in Lyon, France (www.ima2022.fr).

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