

Acceptance by D. Dolejš:

President Weihed, members of the society, ladies and gentlemen,

I am thoroughly delighted and exceedingly grateful to the SGA and the Barrick Co. for this award. Thank you, Jan, for nominating me for this prestigious recognition for young scientists and for your kind words. Let me use this opportunity and share with you what were the major influences that bring me to the podium today.

My interests in geology date back to time spent with my parents, Jan and Jana, in the countryside where the nearest rock outcrop, albeit temporary, was in our garden. I have enrolled at the Charles University in Prague and because that outcrop was made of weakly metamorphosed sediments, I was convinced to become a sedimentologist. How wrong ...

During my university studies in Prague, contrary to warnings of my classmates, I attended the course on thermodynamics by Milan Rieder. Although the subject was virtually impossible to grasp by a geologist, I somehow felt that nature operates by simple physico-chemical principles and understanding rather than ignoring them may offer the clue to many processes. One year later, Miroslav Štemprok and his phase equilibria class convinced me that Rieder had a point. Štemprok's gentle, encouraging and persistent personality kept me coming back not only to use his extensive library but mainly for long and intriguing discussions. His far sight and worldwide experience with ore-forming hydrothermal processes presented a steady enquiry for me, but I felt that he wants to urge me that I find the solutions on my own. Finally, when I complained to Petr Jakeš that he did not sufficiently cover hydrothermal phenomena in his graduate geochemistry class, he, instead, wrote a supportive reference letter for me to pursue a Ph.D. in North America. So I went ...

I arrived to McGill in Canada and the department was well populated with hard-rock academic staff providing unusually rich and diverse expertise in geochemistry, petrology and ore deposits. My Ph.D. supervisor, Don Baker, has generously allowed me to choose and put his funds behind my own thesis topic, which meant a hard and slow start for a naive youngster. However, this discovery path of my own research attitude and capabilities was truly rewarding. Being the only student working with Don for several years, I naturally gravitated to the most populated room across the corridor, happened to be a fluid inclusion lab of economic geologist, „Willy“ Williams-Jones. The SEG student chapter at McGill was in a full swing, we extensively travelled to ore deposits across Eastern Canada, and Willy's students and postdocs kept reminding me how fluids are important scientifically, economically, and on Friday nights. Still in Montreal, I started my collaboration with Thomas Wagner, postdoc at that time, and our work on thermodynamic models of hydrothermal alteration continued when we both moved to German universities. The more we enjoyed the intricacies of physicochemical properties of silicate, oxide and sulfide minerals and aqueous species, the less time was left for writing additional joint papers, but I am happy that we both still continue to build on these results.

In 2004, I moved to the University of Bayreuth as a postdoc and I wish to appreciate the generosity of Hans Keppler, for offering me a long-term position. The attitude at the Bayerisches Geoinstitut was unlike at any other university, but was that of a research centre with a high flux of excellent young researchers, unparalleled infrastructure and technical support. I started there just two months ahead of arrival of Andreas Audétat, who then built the laser ablation ICP MS lab, and we revived our collaboration from North American times, and started on several studies related to the occurrence, stability and implications of molybdenum mineralization. Andreas's meticulous analytical skills and my desire to amplify the results and applicability into a broader picture led to recognition of magmatic molybdenite in a number of igneous suites worldwide and to subsequent calibration of a new oxy- and sulfobarometer for ore deposit studies. Another important moment in Bayreuth was a

sabbatical of Craig Manning, visiting us from UCLA, when we started to carefully evaluate solubilities of various minerals in hydrothermal fluids, with prospective applications to deeper lithosphere and global cycles. Our daily interactions in the summer of 2009 provided much impetus for my subsequent work on fluid flow and estimation of fluid fluxes from mineral and alteration record.

My so far last move to Charles University in 2008 meant adding teaching and science outreach into my daily schedule. Upon my arrival in Prague, I unavoidably became a power-point slide creator but I am happy to note that the more slides I had, the larger number of curious and inspiring students I was able to meet. Supervising eight students working with me today, and with the help of local and international laboratory facilities, we have embarked on several projects related to pulsed fluid flow, origin of greisen and skarn deposits, and the mechanisms of mineral reactions on the microscale. It is also very gratifying to see that a number of my students found geology interesting and important, and they pursue their studies or jobs abroad.

In closing I can say that the award is not the sole accomplishment of myself but I would like to acknowledge the many collaborators and individuals who have given me the opportunity to achieve this recognition. I would not be standing here without continuing support of our family and my girlfriend, and their steady forbearance and sacrifice for my scientific pursuits.

We would not be meeting here today if we would not share sense that our profession needs communication, strategy and visibility in the modern society. Likewise, this award would not exist without the farsight and commitment of those who dedicate their time, efforts and resources to this professional society. I am, therefore, very grateful to the SGA leadership and to Barrick for bestowing me with this award and hope that my future work will satisfy the high standards set forth by my predecessors. Thank you for listening.