

Citation by M. Pagel (Emeritus Professor at the University of Paris XI, Orsay):

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dr. Michel Cuney, the fourth recipient of the SGA NEWMONT GOLD MEDAL, is an outstanding geoscientist in all fields related to uranium deposits and the uranium cycle in the crust, ranging from practical geology to laboratory work and conceptual thinking. It's a pleasure for me to present Michel as I have known him since 40 years. He has been employed by the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), in France since 1976. He received his 3rd cycle thesis entitled "The uranium deposits of Bois Noirs Limouzat" in 1974 and completed a State thesis in 1981 on "Uranium and thorium behavior during metamorphism. The role of anatexis in the genesis of radioelements-rich magmas". He is presently Research Director at CNRS acting as permanent Researcher in the "Georessources" laboratory of the Lorraine University.

During his career, his main and continuous research was dedicated to uranium metallogeny and geochemistry. However, he also worked on rare metals. He was the principal investigator for the first drill hole of the French Deep Geology Drilling Program on the Echassieres granite. He also contributed to studies on reclamation of uranium mining sites, natural analogue for nuclear waste disposal and the radon risk.

Michel Cuney is the author and/or coauthor of 200 papers in scientific journals including 125 in international referred journals, 507 communications in congress (including 100 invited conferences) and has contributed to 13 books. He has directed 35 PhD and co-directed 19 others and thus has contributed to formation of a new generation of uranium geologists, more than 20 of his students work in Areva.

His research on geology and evolution of granite-related vein uranium deposits was fundamental to the understanding of their metallogeny. He visited and studied almost all types of uranium deposits in the world and focused on the parameters controlling the formation of high-grade uranium deposits. Since his stay at the University of Gottingen with Professor HG Winkler in 1971-1972 he was always interested in experimental study of the solubility and partition coefficients of metals between solution and magma. Michel was also one of the researchers who showed that the study of U-Th bearing minerals was a key for the understanding of the uranium and thorium geochemical cycle. He especially focused on the importance of monazite either as a source of uranium or as a witness of fertile altered granite. He just finish now publishing excellent syntheses on uranium fractionation through time driving the secular variation of uranium deposits types and, on the genetic classification of uranium and thorium deposits. He is recognized as the world-class leader in the uranium domain. He became highly respected by distinguished experts in uranium geology who acknowledge his professional and human qualities and his conviction of the necessity to transfer high quality research into exploration practice.

Michel has shared all his unique knowledge with earth science community in numerous international meetings, workshops, short courses and conference in the universities worldwide. Michel was invited to serve on national and international panels and committees on geo-political and socioeconomic issues, recently he was appointed as advisor of the U.S. National Research Council (National Academy of Sciences). He also acts as a consultant for IAEA. He serves as a member of the Editorial Board of the SGA premium journal, Mineralium Deposita, and is a special associate editor for the American Mineralogist. He was previously in the editorial board of the Bulletin of the French Geological Society and the "Chronique de la Recherche Minière" He was the Thayer Lindsley Visiting Lecturer of the Society of Economic Geologists in 2010 and was elected SEG Fellow. I know that Michel had to show a strong tenacity in his research during a long period when metallogeny studies

were not supported in France and especially because of a lack of interest in uranium. This year, Michel received the Barbier prize of the French Geological Society.

Michel is an enthusiastic and patient scientist who spends a lot of precious time explaining his own ideas and approaches. He shows a strong interest in the education of professional exploration geologists.

I would like to congratulate Dr Michel Cuney for his major contribution explaining different ways of concentration of uranium in the magmatic, metamorphic and hydrothermal environments.