

Thank you so much for your kind words, Jan.

Dear President, Council and SGA members,
Dear colleagues

It is with great honor that I receive the SGA-KGHM Kroll Medal.

I joined the SGA Council in 2006 and since then I served the Society in several different ways until 2019, including a term as SGA President in 2016-17. These years were challenging and vibrant times for me. I believe we all feel very proud for what SGA has accomplished over its history. The Society has always gathered inspired and inspiring people in a wide variety of global activities, including our successful Biennial Meetings, metallogeny short courses and sponsored student activities, and our widely acknowledged journal - *Mineralium Deposita*. Moreover, the Society became a respected organization worldwide, recognized for its pioneering role in supporting graduate students and young professionals through the SGA Educational Fund.

None of this would have been possible without the generous effort and dedication of many presidents, council members, editors, student chapters, and many other volunteers. I wish that, in my person, this medal may distinguish all of them, without exception, but I cannot fail to highlight some people to whom I will forever feel indebted for their tireless collaboration during my term as SGA president: Jan Pasava, the SGA Executive Secretary, who is truly the backbone and soul of the Society; Karen Kelley and Anna Vymazalova, SGA VP and SGA VP for Student Affairs, respectively; Hartwig Frimmel, treasurer of the SGA, Bernd Lehmann and Georges Beaudoin, editors of *Mineralium Deposita*, John Slack, editor of the SGA Special Publications, and Massimo Chiaradia, by that time editor of SGA News.

When President David Huston told me that I had been awarded this highly prestigious distinction, I got very proud, but very surprised as well. The truth is that I hardly feel worthy of such recognition because I feel that any possible contribution that I might have given to SGA was far less than what I received in return. Serving the SGA was probably the most pleasant and certainly one of the most rewarding components of my professional life. Being able to learn from the best and being encouraged to raise my standards to the most demanding criteria, were structural aspects of my growth as a scientist and as a man. Moreover, during the many years that I have served at the Council, I had the privilege of sharing unforgettable moments with unforgettable people, as SGA is a huge universe of good and generous people, where I only made good friends for life.

I want to address a special and sincere thanks to David Leach, the previous recipient of this award, who, as SGA President, has always been an inspiration to me.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to urge all the non-member, graduate students and young professionals who might be listening today, to join the SGA and bring with you as much young colleagues as you can. At a time when the world is moving at a dizzying speed and the reality of life seems to lack time for reflection and sharing, it is when it becomes more crucial to unite around common values and interests, and build new horizons cemented by a strong sense of belonging. Join the SGA; it really makes a difference!

Once again, my dear friends, being awarded the SGA-KGHM Kroll Medal by the SGA Council means a lot to me and I will never find words to thank you enough.

I wish all the best for our SGA!! Thank you very much!

Jorge M.R.S. Relvas

March 28th, 2022