



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF AMERICA®

# GSA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024

## DEAR COLLEAGUES

Thank you for your interest in the September 2024 issue of the GSA International Newsletter. In it, we share news of our activities and engagement at the International Geological Congress, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in late August 2024. This issue focuses on 2024 Connects in Anaheim, California, USA, which is just around the corner! Please see below for more information about internationally focused activities at Connects, including the first oral session in Spanish in GSA's history and a list of the GSA International student, early career, and senior awardees.



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INTERNATIONAL  
NEWSLETTER:**



Also in this issue of the GSA International Newsletter, we are happy to feature the Geological Society of Africa, one of GSA's international Associated Societies.

We welcome the new members of the GSA International Committee and say thanks to those who have completed their terms. Our recurring feature on funding and opportunities is found at the end of this newsletter.

As always, please share your comments and ideas with me at [esztein@geosociety.org](mailto:esztein@geosociety.org). We are happy to see you when your travels bring you to our Washington, DC, office or at scientific meetings in the U.S. or around the world.

Thank you for reading and see you in Anaheim!

**Ester Sztein**

Director of International Programs  
Geological Society of America



**PLEASE  
SHARE YOUR  
COMMENTS  
AND IDEAS  
WITH ME AT:**

**[ESZTEIN@GEOSOCIETY.ORG.](mailto:ESZTEIN@GEOSOCIETY.ORG)**





# INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

## International Geological Congress (IGC) - International Union for Geological Sciences (IUGS), Busan, Republic of Korea, 25-30 August 2024

GSA was very well represented at the IGC. We had a big, attractive, and well-placed booth in the Exhibit Hall, a large contingent of travel award recipients to the IGC, and three GSA-linked scientists as part of the U.S. delegation to the IUGS/IGC International Council established by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

The GSA/GSA Foundation International Geological Congress travel award program provided funds for 24 U.S. graduate students and early career scientists to participate in this important international meeting, allowing them to share their research in oral and/or poster presentations during the IGC. **Chuck Bailey** (GSA president, William and Mary), **Carmala Garzione** (GSA advisor, U. of Arizona), and **Ester Sztein** (GSA) were part of the official U.S. delegation to the IUGS, which was chaired by **Adam Simon** (U. of Michigan).

The GSA booth was very busy. Current and future GSA members stopped by to visit and learn more about our programs. It was the “home away from home” for the travel awardees and members of the U.S. delegation, and it a great spot for impromptu and planned meetings with colleagues from around the world. The mineral raffle proved to be a great way to engage with IGC participants and provided three lucky winners with a unique souvenir from their trip to Korea!



Chuck Bailey and Ester Sztein were invited to the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the **Geological Society of Korea and the Geological Society of Mongolia**. We were very honored to witness this event.

Ester Sztein was part of the panel “How can we succeed in raising the prominence of the geosciences on the global policy agenda?” together with **Janice LaChance** (AGU), **Munira Raji** (U. of Plymouth), and **Michael Kehinde** (Geological Society of London). This panel was convened by **Alexander Rudloff** (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics), **Elena Robinson** (AGU), **Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte** (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel), and **Ed Robeck** (American Geosciences Institute).

IUGS is governed by geoscientists who are chosen by the official member country delegations, which form the **IUGS International Council**. The IUGS International Council meets every four years at the International Geological Congress to elect its governance and choose from among bids to host the IGC to be held four years later. **The International Council selected Calgary, Canada, to host the 2028 IGC**. Other important IUGS voting results include the election of **Hassina Mouri** (South Africa) as president; **Maria Rose Petrizzo** (Italy) and **Marko Komac** (Slovenia) as vice presidents; **Ludwig Stroink** (Germany) as secretary general; and **David Cohen** (Australia) as treasurer. **Weijun Zhao** (China) and **Farnoos Farjandi** (Iran) were elected as IUGS councilors for the 2024–2028 term, and **Josephine Uushona** (Namibia), and **Renee Clary** (USA) were elected for the 2026–2030 term. Congratulations to all!





# ROAD TO CONNECTS

## What to Find at the International Table at Connects 2024

22–25 September 2024;  
Anaheim, California, USA



As the global geoscience community gathers for Connects 2024, the International Table will be a hub of activity, offering something for everyone. Whether you're seeking information, connections, or just a bit of excitement, this is your gateway to the international side of geoscience.



- Discover global opportunities with GSA's Associated Societies at our table in the GSA HQ area in the Exhibit Hall. Learn about our global network, explore collaboration opportunities, and find ways to get involved, no matter where you are in your career.
- GSA International (GSAI) will be showcasing its latest work, activities, and outreach efforts. From global field trips to international collaborations, you'll see firsthand how GSAI is making a difference. Discover how we are advancing geosciences worldwide and learn how you can get involved.
- Join informal meetups with fellow scientists from around the world to network, exchange ideas, and spark future collaborations in geoscience.
- Don't miss the handouts featuring all the internationally focused topical sessions. These sessions are specially curated to address global challenges and innovations in geoscience, ensuring you are up to date with the latest research and trends.
- Share your story and get featured in a GSAI video! This is a unique chance to showcase your work, insights, and excitement about the future of geoscience, and be part of the global geoscience narrative.
- Who doesn't love free and useful swag? Swing by our table to pick up some cool giveaway items. There's something for everyone.
- Sign up for the GSA International Newsletter and stay connected with the latest news, updates, and opportunities from GSAI, no matter where you are in the world.

## **GSA International Award Winners**

Join us in congratulating the winners of the various awards managed by GSA International.





## **GSA International Travel Grant Awards**

The 10 awardees are:

- Asmae Baqloul (Morocco)
- Matías Barrionuevo (Argentina)
- Cynthia Bermúdez (Mexico)
- Lucas Fennell (Argentina)
- Rubén Filipovich (Argentina)
- Parita Gorania (India)
- Farhad Hossain (Bangladesh)
- Pim Kaskes (Belgium)
- Samikshya Mohanty (India)
- Luca Pellegrino (Italy)

## **Christopher I. and Irene N. Chalokwu Travel Grant Awards**

The winner of the 2023 award is Mehdi Ousbih (Morocco).

## **El-Baz Desert Research Student Awards**

The two winners of this research award are Asil Newigy (Germany) and Abdullah Ibrahim (U.S.).

## **2024-2025 James B. Thompson Distinguished Lectureship Award:**

Professor Alan E. Fryar (University of Kentucky)

## **2024 Distinguished Career Award**

Dr. Bilal Haq (Sorbonne University, Paris, France, and Smithsonian Institution, US)



*All winners will receive their awards at the International Reception and Award Ceremony on **Monday 23 September at 6:30 p.m. at the Anaheim Marriott.** Pick up an invitation from the international table at HQ and come celebrate their achievements!*

## **GSA's First-Ever Technical Session in Spanish**

For the first time in its 136-year history, GSA is proud to host a technical session presented in Spanish. This groundbreaking session, titled **“T178. Presentaciones de Geociencias en Español I: Una Nueva Experiencia en una Reunión de GSA,”** represents a significant step toward greater inclusivity in the geosciences.



The session is convened by Scott Bennett, Jay Chapman, Ángel García Jr., Alexander Iriando, Elizabeth Long, Gabriela Mora-Klepeis, Ester Sztein, and Aaron Velasco. Endorsers of the session are GSA Geochronology Division, GSA Geology and Society Division, GSA International, and GSA Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology Division. Esta sesión experimental tiene como propósito promover la comunicación de la investigación geocientífica en español en GSA.

***Mark your calendars and be sure to  
attend "T178. Presentaciones de  
Geociencias en Español I" on Monday, 23  
September, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in room  
304C (ACC). Esperamos verlos allí!***



**CLICK OR SCAN  
HERE FOR MORE  
INFORMATION!**



# Sessions endorsed by GSA International, GSA International Committee, and Associated International Societies

## 1. Endorsed by GSA International and the GSA International Committee:

- T62. Shaping a Sustainable Future with Geology in the Twenty-First Century: Geology and Society Division Turns 21
- T91. Groundwater Sustainability in Times of Climate and Human Uncertainties
- T91. Groundwater Sustainability in Times of Climate and Human Uncertainties (Posters)
- T178. Presentaciones de Geociencias en Español I: Una Nueva Experiencia en una Reunión de la Sociedad Geológica Americana (GSA)// Spanish Presentations about Geosciences I: A New GSA Experience

## 2. Endorsed by the Geological Association of Canada, the Geological Society of Africa, and the Geological Society of Australia:

- T9. Ore Genesis in Extensional Tectonic Environments

## 3. Endorsed by the Geological Society of London:

- T2. Mesozoic Earth System and Timescale

## 4. Endorsed by GSA International and Wateraid Bangladesh:

- T83. Groundwater Pollution with Arsenic and Other Geogenic Legacy Contaminants, Related Health Risks and Management I: Advancing Learning through Geospatial Tools, Machine Learning, Data Science, and Artificial Intelligence
- T83. Groundwater Pollution with Arsenic and Other Geogenic Legacy Contaminants, Related Health Risks and Management: Advancing Learning through Geospatial Tools, Machine Learning, Data Science, and Artificial Intelligence (Posters)

[VIEW ALL  
AVAILABLE  
SESSIONS HERE!](#)





## Exploring the Vital Signs of Springs: A Thompson Distinguished Lecture by Alan Fryar

Join us for an insightful lecture titled "**Checking the Pulse and Taking the Temperature: How Do Springs Respond to Environmental Stresses?**" by Alan E. Fryar, GSA's James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer for 2024–2025. This session will take place on Tuesday, 24 September, from 10:30–11:30 a.m. in room 210C (ACC).

This topic is increasingly important as we face the impacts of climate change and other stressors on our ecology. Dr. Fryar's expertise will guide us through understanding these dynamic systems and their responses, providing valuable insights for scientists, environmentalists, and policymakers alike.



**ADD TO YOUR  
SCHEDULE VIA  
OUR MEETING APP!**



# GSA'S GROWING INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

As GSA continues to expand its global footprint, GSA International has worked in collaboration with other GSA departments to make significant strides in fostering relationships, supporting international geoscientists, and enhancing our worldwide impact. Below, we showcase our progress and successes through key metrics and insights.

## CATEGORY KEY METRICS

### Global Partnerships

- **Total international Associated Societies: 32**
- **New International Associated Societies since April 2023:** Geological Societies of India, Korea, Nigeria, and Serbia. More in the works—to be announced soon!

### Outreach/Expansion

- **International Newsletters Published in 2024: 3**
- **Electronic Subscribers: 2,241**
- **Physical Copies Distributed at Various Meetings: ~350**
- **Percentage Growth from 2023: 100%**

### Web Traffic Insights

#### Top Countries (except U.S.):

- Mexico: 16.6%
- China: 3.8%
- Canada: 2.9%
- India: 2.8%

### Social Media Engagement

#### Top Facebook Followers (except U.S.):

- India: 8.3%
- Mexico: 4.0%
- Pakistan: 3.9%

#### Top LinkedIn Followers (except U.S.):

- India: 13.6%
- Canada: 11.7%
- Türkiye: 8.1%

## Connects 2024 International Participation

### Abstract Authors by Region (except U.S.):

- Americas: 319
- Africa: 61
- Asia: 444
- Europe: 628
- Oceania: 101

**Total Abstract Authors:** 7608 (20.4% are international)  
**International Authors Increase from 2023:** 2.4%

## Supporting International Talent

- **GSAI Travel Awards:** 10 (up from 6 in 2023)
- **Division Awards:** 14 (up from 8 in 2023)

## Research Excellence

- **Graduate Student Research Grants (Non-U.S. Applicants)**
- **Proposals: 148** (30.1% of total; 1.4% increase from 2023)
- **Funded Proposals: 93** (29.4% of total; 3.8% increase from 2023)

## 2024 International Honorary Fellows

- **4 (Israel, Germany, Slovenia, Ukraine)**

*\*Data from International, Marketing, and Membership departments and from the CPE.*

## Looking Ahead:

GSAI remains committed to building on these achievements by fostering more partnerships, increasing our global outreach, and ensuring that GSA continues to be a hub for international geoscientists.





# THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AFRICA

The Geological Society of Africa (GSAf) is an umbrella scientific and professional organization established in 1973 to promote the advancement of the geosciences in Africa. Its main goal is to serve as a platform for African geologists and earth scientists to collaborate, share research, and address geological issues relevant to the continent. GSAf supports and promotes research in various fields of geology, including mineral resources, environmental geology, and geohazards.

Additionally, the society is committed to enhancing geological education in Africa by providing resources, training, and outreach programs to both professionals and students. GSAf also provides networking opportunities for geologists, facilitating connections between academia, industry, and government sectors. GSAf currently has over 3,000 members from 46 countries both in Africa and the rest of the world.

## Activities and Initiatives

GSAf organizes regular conferences, workshops, and seminars for members to present their research and discuss developments in their field. The society also publishes newsletters to disseminate research findings, news, and updates relevant to the African geological community.



## **Membership**

The Geological Society of Africa (GSAf) welcomes geologists, earth scientists, related professionals, students, and institutions interested in geosciences as members. The society collaborates with international geological organizations to promote global cooperation. GSAf contributes significantly to advancing geoscientific knowledge and addressing geological challenges in Africa.

## **Upcoming Event**

The Geological Society of Africa is collaborating with the Geological Society of Kenya (GSK) for the 30th Colloquium of African Geology meeting (CAG30), scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya from September 23rd to 27th, 2025. The conference will focus on the theme "Unveiling Africa's Geological Resources: Forging a Path for Sustainable Development." Additionally, this event will mark the 60th anniversary of GSAf.







**Colloquium of  
African Geology**  
**CAG30** Sept 23-27, 2025  
Nairobi, Kenya



**Unveiling Africa's Geological Resources:**  
"Forging a Path for Sustainable Development"

**CAG30**

The 30th Colloquium  
of African Geology

**NAIROBI KENYA**

23RD - 27TH SEPTEMBER 2025



The Colloquium of African Geology (CAG) is a major biennial meeting organized under the auspices of the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf), where earthscientists globally have the opportunities to present their research results on topics related to African geology and surrounding areas.

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# GSA INTERNATIONAL 2024-2025 COMMITTEE ROSTER

We heartily welcome our new members Gino Bianchi Mosquera, Fai Chanchai, and Florentin Maurrass and give great thanks to Maeve Boland, Ibrahim Cemen, Abhijit Mukherjee, and Isheka Orr, who completed their terms this past June.

- W. Berry Lyons (Chair, GSAI)
- Monica Jasper (Secretary, GSAI)
- Federico Solano (Chair, International Interdisciplinary Group)
- CM China (Yu Zhongbo)
- Michael C. Wizevich
- Gino Bianchi Mosquera
- Fai Chanchai
- Florentin Maurrass
- Mark Gabriel Little (Council Liaison)
- Mihai N. Ducea
- Natalia Bykova
- Onema Christopher Adojoh
- Prosun Bhattacharya
- Sharon M. Locke
- Nazrul Khandaker (Past Chair, GSAI)
- Melanie Brandt (ED/CEO, Director Advisor)
- Ester Sztein (Director Advisor, Liaison)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND AWARDS

### GSA's Center for Professional Excellence

The GSA Center for Professional Excellence supports the growth and excellence of geoscientists throughout their career trajectory. This center offers a wide range of funding opportunities to assist geoscientists at various stages of their careers. All available funding opportunities can be found at GSA Center for Professional Excellence Funding.



FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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# GSA Opportunities and Nominations for Geoscientists

1. GSA International is now accepting nominations for the 2025-2026 **GSA James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer Award**. This prestigious position recognizes exceptional geoscientists who can share their expertise with a global audience. There are two positions: one based in the U.S. who will lecture abroad, and another for an international scientist who will lecture in the U.S. Self-nominations are welcome.



TO NOMINATE,  
CLICK OR SCAN



TO NOMINATE,  
CLICK OR SCAN

2. The **GSA International Distinguished Career Award** will be given to a GSA member who has made numerous, distinguished, and significant contributions that have clearly advanced the international geological sciences through both scientific investigations and service. Nominations are accepted year-round, with a deadline of 1 March 2025 for consideration.

## Funding Opportunities from Other Organizations for Researchers and for Undergraduate, Graduate and Postgraduate Scholars

- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science: Offers various funding opportunities for international researchers to conduct research in Japan.
- Fulbright Programs
  - Fulbright Scholars Program, managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Fulbright Scholar Advisory Board (CIES)
  - Subprogram for administrators is here.
- Fulbright Student Program, also administered by IIE.

- Fulbright Specialist Program, a program for professionals seeking shorter projects.
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Science for Development Fellowships
- Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarship Program: The Aga Khan Foundation provides international scholarships aimed at supporting students from developing countries who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and potential. These scholarships cover a wide range of disciplines and are designed to enable talented individuals to pursue higher education opportunities globally.
- International Student: A comprehensive online resource providing information, resources, and guidance for international students interested in studying abroad.
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP): The NSF GRFP supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions. For U.S. graduate students only.
- Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Scholarships: Available to international students for study and research in Germany.
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Funds: Open to researchers of any nationality, these funds support mobility and career development in Europe and beyond.
- Rhodes Scholarships: Available to students from various countries, including the U.S., for study at the University of Oxford.
- Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Fellowships: These funds support women from developing and emerging economies to pursue advanced graduate studies in STEM fields at top universities worldwide.
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Research Grants: Available to researchers worldwide for projects conducted in Switzerland.
- International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) Grants: These grants support international scientific collaboration and research in geodesy and geophysics.
- National Geographic Society Grants: These funds are to support exploration, research, conservation, education, storytelling, and technology projects worldwide.





# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF GEOSCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

As GSA continues to expand its Center for Professional Excellence (CPE), geoscientists worldwide are invited to **contribute their perspectives through a comprehensive survey**. This initiative aims to deeply explore the professional development needs within the geoscience community, ensuring that future resources and initiatives cater effectively to these needs. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives on various aspects such as **training opportunities, mentorship programs, career guidance, and skills development**. The survey, expected to take about **11 minutes to complete**, promises to serve as a vital platform for geoscientists to articulate their requirements and aspirations.

As a gesture of gratitude for their participation, respondents will automatically be entered into a prize drawing for a chance to **win one of two \$25 gift cards**.

To make your voice heard and contribute to shaping the future of professional development in the geosciences, please **complete this survey**. Your input is crucial in paving the way for enhanced support and growth opportunities within the field.

THANK YOU

**INTERNATIONAL  
NEWSLETTER AUTHORS**

Ester Sztein and Anishma Acharya

