



Editorial

Special issue of Gold Bulletin

Those of you who attended the international conference, GOLD 2003, at Vancouver in September last year (conference report in last issue) could not fail to be impressed by the high quality of both presentations and posters and the breadth of topics covered. This speaks volumes for the quality of the scientists undertaking research into gold. The excitement of discovery that lured many of us into a career in science and engineering was very evident in Vancouver. Nowhere was this more demonstrated than in the impressive range of Keynote Speakers who set the tone for this most successful conference.

Taken together, the Keynote lectures provide an excellent review of the current state of gold science & technology and its potential applications. Many had multi-disciplinary perspectives, which I believe is essential if we are to successfully progress our understanding and develop commercial applications. Consequently, we took the decision to publish the Keynote lectures in *Gold Bulletin* as soon as possible and it is my especial pleasure to present them in this special (much enlarged) issue. I believe this issue will become a much referenced 'classic' publication in the history of gold science. We at *Gold Bulletin* are proud to be associated with such a unique event.

As Editor, I would love to be able to publish all of the papers and posters presented in Vancouver, but simple calculations of space and cost show this to be near impossible in a free quarterly journal limited to 36-40 pages per issue. However, readers need not despair! Most of the papers are available on the WGC website, www.gold.org, science and industry section and the authors have also been encouraged to publish elsewhere.

Many of us at Vancouver were impressed by the quality of young graduates reporting their latest research into gold. The lure of gold has been a dominant aspect in the history of man. Clearly it continues in the field of scientific discovery. This augurs well for the future of the industry. The gold industry should be proud of the current healthy state of gold R & D (after many years of indifferent health)! It must continue to support its development if it is to grow.

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