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Clay Minerals–Life Interplay

Guest Editor:

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (30 November 2020)

Message from the Guest Editor

Parallel to the evolution of life, some authors use the term "mineral evolution" to refer to the changes and diversification of minerals in the history of the Solar System and our planet. Such mineral evolution is certainly driven by inorganic processes, but life has contributed heavily to it on the Earth's surface by modifying deeply the inorganic conditions (such as atmospheric oxygen, ocean chemistry or climate), by mineral weathering and biomineralization, and by modifying geomorphological features. As minerals contribute nutrients and physical support to organisms, there is a mutual feed-back that justifies the use of the concept of mineral-life co-evolution. Clay minerals are those most greatly engaged with living organisms due to their physical and chemical properties. This issue is devoted to studies that explore the mutual influence between living organisms and clay minerals, including generation of clay minerals by biological activity, in all settings: from the deep subsurface to submarine, natural, and agricultural soils and laboratory experiments.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Minerals welcomes submissions that report basic and applied research in mineralogy. Research areas of traditional interest are mineral deposits, mining, mineral processing and environmental mineralogy. The journal footprint also includes novel uses of elemental and isotopic analyses of minerals for petrology, geochronology and thermochronology, thermobarometry, ore genesis and sedimentary provenance. Contributions are encouraged in emerging research areas such as applications of quantitative mineralogy to the oil and gas, manufacturing, forensic science, climate change, geohazard and health sectors.

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