This past year has generally been a good one for the International Medical Geology Association which has experienced important growth and development but not without some growing pains. We have formalized the Association by developing and adopting a Constitution and By-laws which is now posted on the IMGA website at http://www.medicalgeology.org. In addition, several Regional Divisions (~12 divisions representing every continent) and Chapters have been developed with approximately 70% of the Divisions fully active and contributing to the goal and mission of IMGA. Also Chapters are developed now in Iran, Colombia, Brazil and Macedonia. Chapters in Mexico, Bolivia, Croatia and Cyprus are under development.

The Directors of the Association are:

**Dr. Olle Selinus**  
Geological Survey of Sweden  
Post Box 670  
Uppsala, 751 28, SWEDEN  
Phone +46 18 179000  
Fax +46 18 179210  
Olle.selinus@sgu.se (office)  
Olle.selinus@gmail.com

**Dr. Jose Centeno**  
The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology  
Dpt of Environmental and Infectious Disease Sciences  
Washington DC, 20306-6000 USA  
Phone: + 202 782-2839 (office)  
    + 202 782-2832 (Lab); (202) 374-0427 (mobile)  
Fax: +202 782-9215  
Email(1): centeno@afip.osd.mil  
Email(2): tonycent@comcast.net
Six Councilors have been appointed to represent the broad geographic distribution of Medical Geology and the wide range of disciplines that are embraced by this topic. These councilors will be active in medical geology within their disciplines, networks and geographical regions.

The Councilors are:

**Bernardino Ribeiro de Figueiredo** (Geologist, Brazil)
**Fiona Fordyce** (geochemist, UK)
**Zheng Baoshan** (geochemist, China)
**Calin Tatu** (Medical researcher, Romania)
**Nomathemba Ndiweni** (Veterinary Biochemistry, Zimbabwe)
**Philip Weinstein** (Epidemiologist, Australia)

The council has had 7 council meetings (mainly teleconferences) during 2007-2008.

We have established committees and working groups with participants from all over the world.

The following committees are running:
- Journals and Publication Committee
- Promotion and Outreach Opportunities on Medical Geology
- Sponsored Programs (Fund raising) Committee
- Regional groups, guidelines and support
- Education and Training Committee
- Nominating and Award Committee
- Health Impacts of Geologic Disasters (WG)

A Conference Committee is under consideration.

**Background**

In March 2002 the IUGS announced that the International Working Group on Medical Geology would be assigned Special Project status operating directly under the IUGS. Olle Selinus was Director of this activity; Jose Centeno and Bob Finkelman were Co-Directors and Dave Elliott editor of the Newsletter. In January 2006 the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) was formed.

**Membership, Dues, and Finances**
As of July 2008, IMGA had about 200 paying members. IMGA membership is spread all over the world, representing about 65 countries. Countries with 20 or more members include Brazil, China, India, Sweden, UK, and USA. Countries with 10 to 20 members include Australia, Canada, Iran, Nigeria, and Russia.

During Spring 2008, the membership list has gone through a major overhaul. Those members who have not paid their membership fees for a couple of years have been contacted and deleted from the list.

In 2008, the dues system was modified in order to better served the membership and growing requirements from IMGA. The present dues are 40 USD for full members and 20 USD for students. The Executive Committee of IMGA voted to maintain Africa as an exception to this modification maintaining annual dues at half. This decision will be reviewed at upcoming IMGA meetings to determine if any change is necessary.

To facilitate the payment of membership dues, IMGA has developed several modes of payment:
- Credit card on the website (Master Card and VISA)
- Wire transfer directly to bank account
- PayPal
- US bank account for US cheques
- Swedish bank accounts

Because of the very complicated international bank system IMGA has a couple of accounts and several "pockets" within these for different currencies. In January 2008 IMGA had an equivalent of 3220 USD in the accounts (in addition to this 4500 from IYPE only to be used for the Springer book on medical geology).

There is a need to raise additional funds to maintain desired programs, to encourage the participation of young medical geologist scientists in national and international conferences, and to open new avenues in support of interdisciplinary research opportunities on medical geology.

**Chief accomplishments**

During 2007-08 many activities have been carried out. Medical geology has been included in curricula at universities, has received several prestigious awards and has been highlighted all over the world. Several courses have been held. Numerous presentations have been held at meetings and conferences dedicated to public health, geosciences and medical sciences.

**Newsletter**

A newsletter for the working group and other interested people is being produced. The editor of the newsletter is Dave Elliott, Canada. The CD containing all the information from the newsletter is distributed to all members of IMGA in good standing. In 2007, two newsletters on CD and 5 newsletters by e-mail were published, and in 2008 IMGA has provided its members with two newsletter on CD and 8 newsletters by e-mail.
**Website**

The website is continuously growing. It is updated at least every second week and expanded. When searching for “medical geology” on Google in mid 2004 about 300 hits were received. Today, a similar search has resulted in ~ 70 000 hits are demonstrating the tremendous growth and impact of medical geology. Medical geology is now recognised all over the world and its increasingly mentioned on a several websites.

**Meetings**

Several national and international meetings have been attended during 2007-2008 with both special sessions and keynote lectures. IMGA representatives were invited Keynote Speakers at several of meetings organized by the public health, geoscience and medical sciences communities. Medical Geology has received major considerations at conference such as the GeoHealth-I Conference sponsored by the Geology Society of America and the US Geological Survey, by the US Geoogical Survey National Conference on Human Health Reaserch, by the International Academy of Pathology Congress Series.

The US National Academies and its Board on International Scientific Organizations (BISO) hosted a Symposium entitled “Global Connections between Earth Sciences, Health, and Policy – A Symposium in Celebration of the International Year of Planet Earth.” on September 25, 2008. The symposium highlighted the relationships between earth sciences and public health. The scientific sessions feature several examples of health issues related to geological systems including soil, air, and water. A Panel of scientists from the public health and geosciences communities was also assembled to discussed the integration of scientific research, particularly risk assessments, into policy strategies at the state, national, and international levels. Jose Centeno served as a member of the Organizing Committee and he was invited to present the introductory remarks on behalf of IMGA and the International Year of Planet Earth.

On July, Jose Centeno was invited to present a series of lectures on medical geology at a short course hosted by the Bolivian Division of the International Academy of Pathology. The short course entitled “Environmental Pathology and Medical Geology” was held in La Paz, Bolivia with the participation of over 60 scientists and medical professionals including pathologists, clinicians, toxicologists, epidemiologists, environmental health professionals, and geoscientists. As a result of this course, the Bolivian Division of the International Academy of Pathology has agreed in moving forward to formally establish the Bolivian Chapter on Medical Geology. For more information on the Bolivian Chapter, please contact Dr. Rafael Cervantes Morant at rcmqui@yahoo.com or Dr. Jaime Rios-Dalenz at jriosdal@hotmail.com.

Once again Medical Geology was a topic of interest at the recently celebrated XXVII International Congress of the International Academy of Pathology held in Athens, Greece the week of October 12-17, 2008. A Symposium entitled “Environmental Pathology and Respiratory Toxicology” was organized by Jose and Dr. Florabel G. Mullick, President, International Academy of Pathology, and highlighted the health effects of dust as a research
This September, Bob Finkelman enjoyed two weeks in Beijing, China giving lectures on medical geology and coal science at the China University of Geosciences and the China University of Mining and Technology. A total of about 100 students attended the lectures and, as usual, several expressed interest in pursuing further studies in medical geology. While in Beijing Bob met with representatives from Elsevier and Science Press and was informed that the Chinese translation of Essentials of Medical Geology will be available early next year.

**Regional Divisions**

International Medical Geology Regional Divisions (Divisions) are formed to encourage broad participation in medical geology research, training and education, and to disseminate medical geology information in their respective regions. Divisions may organize scientific and educational meetings when and where necessary, that may consist of activities that provide for effective exchange of plans, information, analyses results, ideas, and other activities among its professional and student members; activities that are designed to increase the public’s awareness and appreciation of Medical Geology.

*IMGA has at present following Divisions. Some are active (in bold) and some are under development:*

- **South America**, Central America
- Carribean
- Sub Sahara Africa
- **SE Asia including India, Sri Lanka etc**
- East Asia: including Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia etc
- **China**
- Australia, Oceania
- **Russia and NIS**
- North America
- Europe
- Southern Mediterranean

**Activities by the South American Division.**

Invited lecture at the 15th Brazilian Congress of Toxicology, entitled “Lead occurrence in Brazil and human exposure”, Búzios (State of Rio de Janeiro), Nov. 18-21, 2007.

Short Course on Medical Geology at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro - UFRJ, Institute of Geosciences, Nov. 21-22, 2007


One of 10 Brazilian keynote speakers at the Brazilian Parliament, Brasilia, DF, to address the theme “Medical Geology: Minerals and Public Health”, during the IYPE Inauguration Seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean, April 23-24, 2008. The IYPE National Committee in Brazil organized this seminar.


Short Course on Medical Geology at the University UNIFACS in Salvador (State of Bahia), Sept. 8-12, 2008 (together with Dr. Eduardo De Capitani).

Paper on Medical Geology to be published in the Brazilian Geosciences Journal (RBG) Special Volume, dedicated to the IYPE and, to be distributed at the 44th Brazilian Geological Congress, next October.

Short Course on Medical Geology and Symposium on “Geology, Environment and Health” during the 44th Brazilian Geological Congress, next October, in Curitiba (State of Paraná”).

Paper “Medical Geology in South America” to be published in the Medical Geology book of the IYPE – this paper will be written by several authors from South America.

Member of Scientific Committee of the 12th Brazilian Geochemical Congress and International Symposium of Environmental Geochemistry to be held in the Ouro Preto City (State of Minas Gerais) and of the 3rd Hemispheric Conference of Medical Geology to be held in Uruguay in October, 2009.

Chapters

In 2007 the concept of chapters within IMGA was developed. Chapters are groups within a region bringing together people in an area (city, country, etc.) or in an organization (university, government agency, etc.) interested in medical geology. All members of the Chapter must be members of the Association. A Chapter must consist of at least five (5) members. Chapters are a way to "locally" facility the growth of medical geology. Chapters are designed to operate within the "confinments" of their locality and therefore they are complimentary to the Regional Divisions of IMGA and shall not compete with the Regional Divisions which are regional, in most cases involving several countries.

In August 2008 we have four active chapters and more are under development in for example Bolivia, Croatia, Cyprus, Bolivia and Mexico.

Active chapters:

- Colombia
- Iran
- UNICAMP Chapter, Brazil
- Republic of Macedonia

Chapters are currently been developed in Mexico, Bolivia, and Peru.

Short courses

The highly popular short courses in medical geology have continued during the year. In all cases we have been funded by the host countries. We have some requirements for having courses. Normally we request that 50% of the participants should be geoscientists and 50% from the medical sector. We also require that the organisers finance the subsistence in respective countries and in certain cases travel costs..

The following courses have been held this past year:

- Uruguay, May 2007
- Mexico, June 2007
- Brazil, October 2007
- Cyprus, February 2008
- Ghana, July 2008
- La Paz, Bolivia, July 2008 (under the auspices of the International Academy of Pathology)
- Oslo, August 2008

Courses under planning in e.g. Russia, Peru, Colombia (2009) and Taiwan (2010)

**Selected international symposia containing sessions on Medical Geology in 2007 and beyond.**

The Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences (the academy awarding the Nobel prizes) was the venue in May 2006 for an International Symposium on Medical Geology which was organized under the auspices of the Academy and it had as the primary objective sharing the latest information on medical geology from experts working in the field. The activity was able to bring together 16 specially invited international speakers and over 150 scientists from all over the world to discuss the state of medical geology and future directions. The proceedings were published in 2007 and selected papers were peer-reviewed and published on a special issue of Ambio.

In January the chairman Olle Selinus met the Swedish King, discussing medical geology for one hour in private. He showed a great interest in the subject. On May 26, 2008 the chairman arranged an official opening of Planet Earth at the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, opened by the Swedish King having a rather long speech and after that some lectures, one of the lectures in medical geology which the King found very interesting.

**2nd Hemispheric conference on Medical Geology, October 21-26, 2007, Atibaia, Brazil.**

The second Hemispheric Conference on Medical Geology was organised in Atibaia, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The conference was linked to the annual meeting of Geosciences for Environmental Management, GEM, a short course in medical geology organised by the International Medical Geology Association, the launch of the International Year of Planet Earth in Brazil, and the XI Brazilian Geochemical Congress. The host was the Brazilian Geochemical Society - SBGq.

The conference was a joint international event organized by the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) and in closed collaboration with the Organizers of the XI Brazilian Geochemistry Congress and the Atibaia local government. The aim of the conference was to bring together scientists from South America, Central and North America, Canada, and the Caribbean Basin to share the most recent advances and latest information on Medical Geology research with particular emphasis on this part of the globe. The main organiser professor Bernardino Figueiredo, UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil had done an excellent work in organising all activities.

The 1st Hemispheric Conference on Medical Geology was organized by the University of Turabo in Puerto Rico, in 2005, with participation from over 50 delegates and with representation from each of the regions. The 2nd conference 2007 brought together more than 60 delegates from a wide range of disciplines in geosciences and biomedical research with
particular interest on Medical Geology. It was decided that the 3rd International Hemispheric Conference on Medical Geology will be organised in Montevideo, Uruguay in 2009. The Chairperson for this conference is Prof. Dr. Nelly Manay, Universidad de la Republica de Uruguay.

**Geo Unions Initiative**

In January 2008 a major meeting was held in Austria concerning environment and health. Participants were from the big Geo-unions, WHO, UN, ICSU, ISPRA and others. The result of this meeting was a proposal for funding from ICSU on these issues. This was fully approved in spring 2008. IMGA is one of the full members of this initiative!

**Project title:** Mapping GeoUnions to the ICSU Framework for Sustainable Health and Wellbeing

This project will: (a) Contribute to ICSU’s 2006-2011 Vision by leading the GeoUnions sector into a new scientific initiative that engages policy makers; (b) Address ICSU’s Science for Policy and Science for Society goals by scoping the integrated science roles of the GeoUnions relating to health and wellbeing and to health policy making; (c) Support participation of scientists from ICSU-ROA’s priority area of health and wellbeing; (d) Strengthen international science that benefits societies in Sub-Saharan Africa; (e) Show how evolving information technologies assist health policy makers; (f) Integrate critical geoscience elements into a more holistic approach to problem-solving for health science communities; and (g), Partially conceptualize elements of four ICSU interdisciplinary bodies and joint initiatives, (IHDP, GCOS, GTOS, and WCRP) into SHWB.

Contact name(s) & Designation: Mark Rosenberg (IGU); Claire Horwell (IUGG/IAVCEI); Olle Selinus (IUGS/IMGA); Eiliv Steinnes (IUSS); Amelia Budge (ISPRS); Achuo Enow (ICSU-ROA); Dov Jaron (SHWB) Pierre Ritchie (SHWB); Ulisses Confalonieri (GECHuman Health-invited);

Supporting Applicant(s) (Organization(s): IUGS, IUSS, IGU, IUGG (and its Associate IAVCEI), INQUA, IMGA, ICSU-ROA, ICSU-SHWB, GEC-Human Health (invited), IMGA

The first meeting and workshop is planned in Pretoria, South Africa in January 2009.

**Education**

Since the book *Essentials of Medical Geology* has been published education in medical geology has started all over the world. Examples are:

Course in medical geology at Uppsala University. 5 credits
Course in medical geology at Stockholm University. 5 credits
Course in medical geology at Lund University. 5 credits

A one-credit Medical Geology class at the University of Texas at Dallas (65 students).
One Summer course on Medical Geology and Public Health has been organized at the School of Public Health, George Washington University, Washington DC. Lecturers for this short course have included: Bob Finkelman, Joseph Bunnell, and Jose A. Centeno.

The first two students have defended their PhDs in medical geology in Sweden. One has started a career in medical geology in Australia.

A web based course in medical geology is in preparation and will be tested in the beginning of 2009. The course will be used for education among people especially in developing countries but also others..

The IMGA-AFIP Registry of Medical Geology has provided training and internship as postdoctoral and postmedical opportunities to physicians and scientists interested in conducting research on Medical Geology. Two postdocs have already been trained (Dr. Marion Gray – currently an Associate Professor at the James Cook University, Australia, and Dr. Todor Todorov – currently a research chemist at the US Geological Survey in Denver, Colorado. Our new postdoc is Dr. Elis Fornero, a geoscientist working on the health effects of dust at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.


Working in closed collaboration with several environmental, public health and geosciences organizations, the U.S. NRC was asked to undertake an study to explore avenues for interdisciplinary research that would further knowledge at the interface between the earth sciences and public health disciplines (i.e., medical geology). To accomplish this task, the NRC set up a study committee composed of geoscientists, toxicologists, epidemiologists, and public health professionals. The committee was charged with the task of advising on the high priority research activities that should be undertaken for optimum societal benefit, describing the most profitable areas of communication and collaboration between the earth sciences and public health communities. On the final report, the NRC study committee was asked to:

- Describe the present state of knowledge in the emerging field of medical geology.
- Describe the connections between earth science and public health, addressing both positive and negative societal impacts over the full range from large-scale interactions to micro-scale biogeochemical processes.
- Evaluate the need for specific support for medical geology research, and identify any basic research needs in bioscience and geoscience required to support medical geology research.
- Identify mechanisms for enhanced collaboration between the earth science and medical/public health communities.
- Suggest how future efforts should be directed to anticipate and respond to public health needs and threats, particularly as a consequence of environmental change.
**Special Journal Publications on Medical Geology.**

In recent decades geoscientists and biomedical/public health scientists have built up a respectable archive of published papers that would fall under the umbrella of medical geology. The broad diversity of backgrounds of the scientists involved in medical geology research has resulted in papers being published in a multitude array of journals comprising many different disciplines. Moreover, because medical geology problems are more prevalent in developing countries where the populations are more readily exposed to the natural environment, important papers have appeared in many different languages.

Recently, the International Medical Geology Association join efforts with *Environmental Geochemistry and Health* to produce two special issues of *EGH* dedicated to Medical Geology in Developing Countries. The first issue was published [Environ Geochem Health 2007;29:81-167] with 8 manuscripts describing medical geology research projects in China, Brazil, Turkey, Mexico, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria. The second special issue [Environ Geochem Health 2008;30:305-389] was recently published in July 2008 outlining recent advances on medical geology including emerging research topics such as the mineralogical and carcinogenic properties of erionite minerals. With these two special issues, we have attempted to bring together a series of papers dealing with some of the more important and emergent medical geology issues, with emphasis on their impacts on developing countries.

The recent publication of one major journal issue dedicated to earth sciences and health [*Geosciences 2007, No. 5*], reflects the increased attention being focused by researchers on important interactions between these fields. In this special issue of Geosciences, important research areas were discussed covering topics on trace elements, metals, metalloids, dust and other medical geology issues.

Among the high-impact factor journals, medical geology publications have been featured in journals such as Science and the Journal of Environmental Monitoring (JEM). In fact, JEM has recently selected Medical Geology as one of its core topics, and has recently provided a comprehensive coverage of cutting-edge editorials and manuscripts on medical geology.

Medical Geology articles in Spanish have been published in journals such as *Interciencia* and *Terrae*, two leading journal in science and technology for the Americas.

IMGA has also been deeply involved in Encyclopedia of Environmental Health, EEA, to be published by Elsevier. This will be published 2009 and we have several chapters on medical geology in this encyclopedia. These are:

1) Medical Geology: Principles of Medical Geology
2) Toxicological pathways in Medical Geology
3) Health consequences of mineral and fuel extraction
4) Health effects of Volcanic and Geothermal processes
5) Human Health and the State of the Pedosphere
6) The Impact of Natural Dusts on Human Health
7) Infectious processes and medical geology
8) Fluorine – Human Health Risks
In addition to this we have published papers on medical geology in a large variety of journals during 2008. At the end of each year we compile all publications and will send this compilation to IUGS.

**A new Atlas on Medical Geology in Iran**

In recent years Iran has experienced increased population, mineral exploitation, and disease incidence of unknown causes. Therefore, medical geology studies have become absolutely essential. As a first step a schema for representing the total distribution of elements and diseases in Iran has been carried out – **Elements and Diseases Atlas of IRAN**.

Preparation of Elements and Diseases Atlas was based on the distribution of chemical elements extracted from geochemical data, plotted from the Geological Survey of Iran and mortality raw data from the Health Ministry of Iran. The Mortality rate is from the period March 2003-March 2004 and it defined as mortality rate per 100,000 populations in cities. Mortality rate is shown by color, red color indicating a very high mortality, orange a high mortality, yellow for moderate mortality, green for low mortality, blue for very low mortality, and white representing the areas where no data exist. For the geochemical data, the value is in ppm for elements and percent of major oxides in rock units. The geochemical maps do not cover all of Iran and only consider the parts where geochemical sampling has been done. Therefore, some regions have a high density of mortality but are without geochemical data. Information on various geogenic diseases was derived from the book "Essentials of Medical Geology". Mortality and geochemical maps have been integrated, and possible relationship between them has been shown. Therefore, the distribution of elements might be an effective parameter in understanding the incidence of diseases. In this atlas 18 mortality maps and their related elements maps were prepared. The most important outcomes of the Atlas are mortality maps and integrated maps, consequently effective geological parameters can be recognized and suggested solutions for the promotion of the inhabitant’s environmental conditions.

**A new regional book on medical geology**

2008 is the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). IYPE has ten themes and one is Earth and Health, that is medical geology. It has been decided that each these themes will produce a book, published by Springer. In medical geology we already have the big book Essentials of Medical Geology and therefore this new suggested book will be quite different. International Medical Geology Association, IMGA, is now working with establishing regional divisions and chapters all over the world. Therefore we believe that this new book will reflect the regional activities all over. Each region will have one chapter with information on background, ongoing activities, problems and the state of the art of medical geology in the respective division. In addition to this we will have a couple of "global" chapters including problems which are global and can not easily be covered in each of the other chapters. It would be an important thing for us all if the regional divisions of IMGA could take the lead for each of these regional chapters. The main target group for the book will be researchers. This will be the first book of its kind giving a real global overview of all these important aspects on medical geology. The book will be a total of about 300 pages and the deadline will be mid-2009.
New textbook in medical geology

Because of the dramatically growing interest in medical geology, the largest publisher in Sweden on textbooks for universities wish to have a new book. This book will be a textbook on medical geology in Swedish. The main target group will be medical students but also geoscientists and environmental scientists. The publisher has got this request from the medical sciences because there is a great need and interest for introducing medical geology into medical education and medical curriculas now.

This book will mainly be written by Olle Selinus and will be published at the end of 2009.

Collaboration with other groups and associations

Selected organisations:

- Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health, SEGH (with an official representative of IMGA)
- International Society of Medical Geography
- Nordic Working Group on Medical Geography
- Medical Geology Registry at AFIP
- International Association of Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry, Working Group on Geochemistry and Disease
- American Registry of Pathology
- Centre for Metal Biology in Sweden
- Geomedical Committee of the Norwegian Academy of Science and letters
- The East and South Africa Association on Medical Geology
- International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE)
- Geology and Health Division of the Geological Society of America

33IGC and IYPE

Medical Geology is also involved in International Year of Planet Earth as one of 10 themes.

IMGA was also deeply involved in 33IGC in Oslo.

Interdisciplinary Symposias:

Earth and Health: building a safer environment
1. Earth and health - medical geology
2. Groundwater - Geopollution, contamination and health aspects
5. Quantitative aspects of medical mineralogy

Half-day symposium to set out the key questions posed by the IYPE’s Theme Earth and Health
Theme of the Day
Involving, WHO, UNESCO, Ministers, SIWI (Stockholm International Water Institute) and other organisations

There were two short courses held in medical geology
- Medical Geology
- Quantitative aspects of Medical Mineralogy

Geoscience Management – Ongoing Research Projects in the Caribbean and Central America

In the Caribbean Basin as well as in Central America, a wide range of projects, courses, and conferences are being developed with particular emphasis at facilitating multidisciplinary interactions between geoscientists and biomedical/public health scientists. Recent activities include the First Conference on Health Disparities within the Latino Community which was recently held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. At this conference, medical geologists from the Caribbean Basin got together to discuss, among many other topics, the role that natural dust may play on the incidence of asthma among Caribbean countries.

Other issues

The book Essentials of Medical Geology is now translated into Chinese and will be soon be published. A translation into Spanish is also under planning for 2009-2010.

Many papers and notes have been published in 2006-2008 in different journals informing of and marketing medical geology. A full list and other information can be found on www.medicalgeology.org.

Closing comments – what to look for next year and in the future

The IMGA needs to continue to grow and serve its members in ways that will stimulate interest and involvement in medical geology. To this end we will continue to foster regional, national and international medical geology conferences; explore ways to facilitate the exchange of information between medical geologists; provide support and encouragement for young professionals, teachers and students interested in medical geology; and continue to reach out to our colleagues in the biomedical/public health sector to help build strong, productive collaborations.

To accomplish this two things are vital: funding and active participation of our members. We encourage each and every one of you to step up and volunteer to help the IMGA accomplish these worthwhile goals.