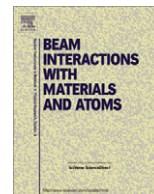


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## Editorial

## Proceedings of the Twelfth International Conference on Accelerator Mass Spectrometry, Wellington, New Zealand, 20–25 March 2011

The 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS-12) was held in Wellington, New Zealand, during 20–25 March 2011. It was organised by representatives of the National Isotope Centre, GNS Science, and by Janet Simes of Absolutely Organised. The venue was the Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa. From the feedback that we've received, this meeting was a great success. Oral and poster sessions had been organised around nine different themes to achieve maximum consistency amongst the presentations and follow-up discussions. Although the number of attendees (209) was markedly less than that of the last five previous meetings, partly due to the Tōhoku earthquake that struck large parts of Japan on 11 March and its aftermath, delegates from twenty countries made the journey to New Zealand. We counted 98 oral and 162 poster presentations. Ca. half of these (133) appear in this proceedings volume as peer-reviewed papers.

The conference was hosted by GNS Science, a Crown Research Institute, and supported by local government. During the opening ceremony on Monday morning 21 March, introductory speeches were given by Alex Malahoff (CEO of GNS Science), Ray Wallace (Mayor of Lower Hutt), and Celia Wade-Brown (Mayor of Wellington). The meeting was opened by the Hon. Wayne Mapp (Minister of Research, Science and Technology) and the scientific programme commenced with keynote presentations by Scott Tumey, on the present state of nuclear forensics, and by Martin Manning, on the relevance of <sup>14</sup>C as tracer of atmospheric chemistry and climate change processes.

Conference attendees were entertained with a social programme that included a welcome icebreaker, a tour of the National Isotope Centre, a guided tour to Zealandia, a sanctuary of native wildlife, and a conference banquet at Pencarrow Lodge on the spectacular south coast. The post-conference field trip was a geological tour of the central South Island organised by David Barrell (GNS Science, Dunedin).

The science programme was organised around the following themes: earth and environmental sciences, technical advances, non-standard AMS isotopes, global change, laboratory status

reports, astrophysics and cosmochemistry, forensics and nuclear safeguards, sample preparation, standards, calibration and data analysis, archaeology and life sciences. The papers in this proceedings volume are drawn from each of these themes and present novel approaches, new data and, above all, scientific rigour.

During the business session at the end of the meeting, we proposed a goal of getting the proceedings in print by May 2012 if authors would make an effort to submit their manuscripts within three months. It has taken about one year longer. The primary reason for the delay was the clash between maintaining high acceptance standards and not having reserved sufficient time from our day jobs to support handling manuscripts that required detailed and repeated communication with authors. While we regret this delay and express our apologies to the AMS community and the NIM-B journal editors, we can say that we have learned tremendously from this exercise and that we are proud of the result.

We would like to thank Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, GNS Science, High Voltage Engineering and National Electrostatics Corporation for their sponsorship and financial support of the conference. We also thank the many colleagues at GNS Science who have helped with the organisation of the meeting. We want to express our gratitude to the colleagues who have helped with selecting conference abstracts, chairing sessions, and reviewing proceedings manuscripts. These tasks are extremely important to make the meeting and its set of publications of lasting memory and relevance. Overall, we feel honoured by the AMS community having trusted us with organising this meeting and handling its proceedings manuscripts. We hope to see you again at AMS-13 in Aix-en-Provence, France, in August 2014 and wish its organisers good luck

*The local editors*  
Albert Zondervan  
Christine Prior  
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Rodger Sparks



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