



IUGS Early Career Award

Rationale for the award

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding research contributions by an early career scientist.

Awardee profile

Nominees should (i) have contributed to geologic knowledge through original research that marks a major advance in the Earth sciences and (ii) be within 10 years after the award of his/her PhD degree at the time of the deadline for the presentation of nominations. Any period of long-term career disruption taken since receiving their degree will not count towards the time limit. Active officers of the various IUGS bodies and initiatives are excluded.



Professor Michal Šujan

Citation for Prof. Michal Šujan for the IUGS Early Career Award

In the name of National Geological Committee of the Slovak Republic I nominate Associate Professor Michal Šujan for the IUGS Early Career Award. Michal Šujan, an Early Career Scientist and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University Bratislava (Slovakia), reached excellent scientific achievements and became a reputable European expert and progressive pedagogue in sedimentology and cosmogenic nuclide geochronology, despite his age. It is expressed in his publications in high-ranked scientific journals, as he is a co-author in 37 papers (first author in 19), 11 of them in Q1 category (JCR). As an expert in the field of cosmogenic nuclides, he leads a project funded by Slovak Research and Development Agency with a team of 24 researchers and students and a budget of 190 000 Eur. The project team is leading the field of development of the authigenic $^{10}\text{Be}/^{9}\text{Be}$ dating worldwide and cooperates with experts from across Europe. This new method allows for determination of a depositional age of ubiquitous clay sediment, what was not possible before. He established a new cosmogenic nuclide sample processing laboratory at the

Comenius University. He has presented lectures at 14 international conferences, including the most prestigious ones in his field (IAS Meetings, EGU General Assembly). Assoc. Prof. Šujan is a member of the Scientific board of the Earth Science Institute (Slovak Academy of Sciences), of the Doctoral studies committee of the Masaryk University in Brno, and a member of the Editorial board of the journal *Geologica Carpathica*. He is a regional correspondent of the International Association of Sedimentologists and is a member of the National Geological Committee of Slovakia, which unites all geological organizations in Slovakia. His research revealed the origin of the biggest groundwater resource in Central Europe – Žitný ostrov and established the age of Lake Pannon and Lake Turiec, essential for geological history of Central Europe. His research was utilized in the private sector in the seismic geohazard evaluation for the nuclear power plants. He authored the first Slovak sedimentological textbook and teach the subjects Sedimentology of clastics, Exogenic processes and Dating of geological processes. Moreover, he popularizes science frequently in the common media. Michal Šujan was responsible for organization of the Central European international geoscientific conference ESSEWECA twice.



Marianna Kováčová

Chairwomen National Geological Committee Slovak Republic

Professor Michal Šujan's response to IUGS Early Career Award

IUGS President John Ludden, Secretary General Stanley Finney, dear colleagues,

When Stan called to announce that I had been selected for the Early Career Scientist award by such a prestigious organization as IUGS, I found it difficult to find the right words to respond. I am deeply honored and see this as a commitment to my future research endeavors.

I am particularly proud that the IUGS Early Career Scientist Award is being awarded to Slovakia, a country in Eastern Europe that is not especially generous in its support for science and education. This recognition shall encourage not only geoscientists but all scientists from our region. I also hope it prompts a more generous approach to supporting the fundamental building blocks of our society.

I am very grateful to all my mentors who have guided me along the way, including Professor Michal Kováč from Bratislava, Slovakia, and Dr. Régis Braucher from Aix-en-Provence, France. The research I've conducted would not have been possible without the team efforts of my colleagues from Comenius University Bratislava, who taught and supported me. This award is an important recognition for all my collaborators and belongs to them as well. I am also deeply thankful for the support of my wife and family, which has allowed me to fully focus on science.

In the last 11 years, I have tried to sit on two chairs, focusing on sedimentology and basin analysis on one side, while also strongly relying on geochronology, and it seems I have not fallen. Our team applies meteoric cosmogenic beryllium-10 for dating, a relatively new and underexplored approach. Along the way, I encountered many confusing results as I worked to understand how the method operates. However, my presence here today proves that thinking outside the box can be a successful strategy, despite the disappointments encountered on the journey. This award will fuel my enthusiasm and help me spread my passion for facies analysis of siliciclastic sediments and cosmogenic nuclide applications to my colleagues and students.

Finally, I want to express my warm congratulations to my fellow IUGS award recipients. I am thankful to the IUGS delegates for nominating me and for being selected. It is a great pleasure to accept this award.