
From: IAH Karst Commission <bwtobin80@212577110.mailchimpapp.com>
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June/July 2025 KC News

Chairs: Peter Malik (Europe/Africa, 9/21 -12/22); Avi Burg (Asia/Oceania, 1/23 - 4/24); Benjamin Tobin (Americas. 5/24 -8/25)

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A Message from the Chairs

As our term as chairs winds down, we are excited about the future of the commission with your new chairs in place and a range of exciting projects moving forward. The summary of our recent annual meeting highlights the great

collaborations that are ongoing and planned. We are in the process of transitioning the chair responsibilities to our newly elected chairs and look forward to continuing to support them as our terms end at the beginning of September.

Ben, Avi, and Peter

KC Chairs Election Results

We had 50 KC members vote in our chairs election and all three candidates were selected. We welcome Nataša, Junbing, and Abner as our next KC Chairs.

Congratulations!

The results:

Do you approve of the candidate as chair of the Karst Commission:

Nataša Ravbar: Yes: 94%; No: 0%; Neutral: 6%

Junbing Pu: Yes: 84%; No: 0%; Neutral: 16%

Abner Patton: Yes: 74%; No: 0%; Neutral: 26%

There appointment will begin in September and continue through August 2029

Request for Volunteers

Our website needs an update!!! As a volunteer organization, we are currently looking for assistance in updating and maintaining our website. If any members are interested in assisting with this effort and are proficient in WordPress, please reach out to the co-chairs for information.

Welcome New Members

Süleyman Selim ÇALLI



I am a postdoctoral scientist currently working as a research assistant at Ankara University, Turkey. My research interest mainly focuses on hydrological modelling (particularly in the heterogeneous systems), assimilation of the satellite-data into hydrological models, and scenario analysis (mainly climate change impacts) on the groundwater systems. During my Ph.D. research, I was particularly interested in the modelling of the mountainous karstic hydrological systems. I have a strong knowledge on the hydrological cycle, terrestrial hydrology, groundwater modelling, and water resources management topics. I am also experienced in statistical hydrology, uncertainty assessment in hydrological models (particularly in R). I have strong experience in hydrogeological teaching methods both laboratory and field experiments, and thus have good communication with the graduate and undergraduate students. I founded a student community (Ankara University Karst Research Community – UNIKARST) and we actively organize field trips, hydrogeological field camps including cave exploration and cave mapping studies, and many other educational applications. I am highly experienced in the field of hydrogeology e.g. pumping and tracer tests on heterogeneous groundwater systems. I am familiar with the usage of environmental isotopes as hydro chemical signatures to increase the robustness of hydrological simulations.

Romza Fauzan Agniy



I am a PhD candidate with a strong foundation in karst hydrology, currently focusing my doctoral research on the carbon cycle within tropical karst landscapes. My academic journey in karst hydrology began in 2015 during my undergraduate thesis, and since then, I have continuously deepened my expertise in this field through various research initiatives, training programs, and international conferences. Over the years, I have been actively involved in studies related to groundwater dynamics, biogeochemical processes, and carbon fluxes in karst systems. My research contributions are reflected in several publications. I am passionate about advancing scientific understanding of karst environments, particularly in the context of groundwater, carbon cycle, and contributing to the sustainable management of these critical landscapes.

Summary of the Karst Commission Annual Meeting during the 32nd International Karstological School “Classical Karst” 2025 held in Postojna, Slovenia, June 2025

The annual meeting of the IAH Commission on Karst Hydrogeology (KC) was held on Wednesday 18 June 2025, at 19:30 CET, at the Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU, as part of the 32nd International Karstological School “Classical Karst”. The meeting was chaired by two of the three KC co-chairs – Avi Burg and Peter Malik. 22 KC members and guests attended the meeting, while 4 others joined remotely via Zoom. The meeting was opened with sincere greetings and thanks by co-chair Avi Burg and Nataša Ravbar, one of the conference organizers.

During the 2-hour meeting, various topics were presented and discussed:

1. Co-chair Avi Burg summarised the KC routine and ongoing activities and the KC involvement in special events since the last meeting in Rome 2024 (Geotrip to the USA, the “Geological Heritage Sites program”, three sessions on karst hydrogeology at the IAH meeting held in Davos, Switzerland in September 2024). 5 new professionals have joined the group since April 2024 and according to the Karst Commission membership rules, they are kept as associate members for the next two years.
2. Co-chair Peter Malik who participated in the Geotrip, used a presentation prepared by Zoran Stevanović to describe the Geotrip to the Ozarks, Missouri, and then to Florida, USA, which ended a few days before the KC meeting.
3. The co-chair updated on the status of the group: the KC group now includes 92 permanent members, 11 associate members, 31 friends who receive the KC news but are not actively involved, 3 IAH councils, and that 40 countries are represented in the group.
4. The co-chair outlined the financial status of the KC and informed the group about a generous donation of 12,000 Euros received from the organizers of the EUROKART 2024 in Rome: Marco Petitta, Mario Parise and Francesco Fiorillo. There are several difficulties in transferring this amount that need to be resolved. The amount is subject to two conditions:

- (half) supporting KC projects (e.g., MIKAS project);
- (half) facilitating the participation of young researchers and/or attendance from low-income countries to the next Eurokarst edition;

The KC members and chairs thank the three Eurokarst 2024 organizers for this generous donation.

5. The co-chair described the difficulty to update and maintain the KC website and stressed that the only reasonable solution for this is for someone to volunteer for this task.

6. KC member Andreas Hartmann who is responsible for maintaining the KC Facebook page proposed a change to the way the group's social media functions.

Andreas and Luka Vucinic will send their proposal to the KC chairs for further progress. This proposal was approved by the participants. In addition, the KC chair thanked Catherine Coxon for many years of operating LinkedIn and Luka Vucinic for his willingness to replace her.

7. Several KC members described karst projects they are leading –Andreas Hartman on ROCKAT, Hevre Jourde on SNO KARST, Zoran Stevanović (recorded presentation) on MIKAS project, Attila Kovacz on karst in Hungary and Philippe Meus provided some information on the activities carried out by the water tracing initiative/working group on dye tracing. Suleyman Selim Calli from Turkey described his new idea for collecting data on karst springs around the Mediterranean and called for cooperation with the KC members.

8. With the support and consent of all participants, the KC awarded KC old member Romeo Eftimi a certificate of honor for his prolonged and beneficial activity in the KC group. Peter Malik and Mario Parise respectfully described Romeo's long-term activity and contribution. Romeo's son, Olsi, thanked the group for this appreciation.



Romeo receives the certificate of honor from co-chairs Peter Malik and Avi Burg and Cyril Mayaud, one of the conference organizers.

9. Two publications were mentioned for their specialty – Neven Kresic's book "Notable Springs of the United States" now available for free download, and the article by Xanke et al., 2024 – one of the five Hydrogeology Journal Editors' Choice articles of the year 2024. This article was written as part of the KARMA project managed by several KC members.

10. The KC co-chairs proposed to hold the next KC annual meeting (2026) at the next EUROKARST in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. This proposal was accepted with the consent of all participants.

11. Co-chair Avi Burg reported on the results of the elections for the new trio that will lead the group from September 2025.

The three new co-chairs elected are:

Junbing Pu representing Asia and Oceania, **Nataša Ravbar** representing Europe and Africa and **Abner Patton** representing the Americas.

Congratulations to the new chairs whose term of service will begin in September 2025 and end in August 2029.

It is important to note with pleasure that this is the first time in the history of the Karst Commission that a woman will serve as chair.

A group photo was taken at the end of the meeting and is attached below.



2025 Young Karst Researcher Prizes

The annual meeting of the IAH Karst Commission regularly serves as a platform for awarding students for an excellent presentation/poster (the Young Karst Researcher Prize - YKRP). A committee established for the purpose of the prize, which includes the two co-chairs – Peter Malik and Avi Burg, together with KC member Cyril Mayaud, decided to award the following two students for excellent presentation/poster (Criteria: presentation form, excellence, innovation, originality, methods):

Nathan Rispal from France – “Taking into account recharge by snow for accurate karstic discharge modelling: implications for water resource management in the Devoluy Massif (France)”.

Tobias Grunhofer from Spain – “Advancing contaminant transport modeling in karst systems: integrating Eulerian and Lagrangian approaches in openKARST”.

The awardees received certificates of appreciation, typical souvenirs provided by the conference organizers and books on karst hydrogeology donated by Springer Publishing. The announcement of the awardees and recognition ceremony were part of the closing ceremony (see photo below).



Thanks to all those who helped make the KC annual meeting and the YKRP ceremony a success

The Karst Commission activities were completed within the framework of the 32nd International Karstological School “Classical Karst” 2025, and would not have happened without the continuous patient organizational work of the two organizers – Nataša Ravbar and Cyril Mayaud. Our sincere thanks to them!!! Special thanks also to the staff of the Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU for their efficient technical assistance during the KC meeting and the YKRP ceremony. Many thanks to Springer Publishing for providing the YKRP awardees with excellent and valuable books. We also sincerely thank all the speakers during the KC meeting for their willingness to share information with the group – Andreas Hartmann, Herve Jourde, Zoran Stevanović, Philippe Meus, Attila Kovacz and and Suleyman Selim Calli.

In Memory of Wolfgang Dreybrodt

We regret to announce the passing of Wolfgang Dreybrodt - a distinguished karst researcher with impressive scientific achievements. Attached are the words of his son
-Joerg Dreybrodt, a cave explorer himself.

Wolfgang Dreybrodt(10.01.1939* – 05.06.2025†)

*Dear former colleagues and collaborators of my father, karst researchers, fellow cavers
and friends,*

*I am deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of my father in the early morning of
June 5th at his home. He lived a full life and had, for some time, expressed a readiness to
let go.*

*Wolfgang's work on growth simulations began when, during a family holiday, Wolfgang
and I discovered a split-open stalagmite in a cave in Mallorca. It revealed vertical growth
rings aligned with the crystal orientation, having formed on a corner. This led to a
publication in Die Höhle, Vol. 32/1981. That discovery inspired him, shaping his
subsequent research and fostering collaborations with many of you.*

*I am deeply grateful for the legacy he passed on to me - his passion for caves, which lives
strongly within me. I continue to honour it as an active expedition caver.*

*The Time Capsule IAH interview with him, conducted by his closest researchers Franci
Gabrovšek and Douchko Romanov, together with Georg Kaufmann, offers the best
summary of his life and work.*

Joerg Dreybrodt on behalf of the family and as his son



*Fig. **Left.** Stalagmite from Mallorca (J. Dreybrodt), **Right.** Cross-section of stalagmite growth simulation in Die Hoehle 32/1981 (Dreybrodt, Lamprecht)*

<https://timecapsule.iah.org/episode/wolfgang-dreybrodt/>

Contaminant Transport, Risk Assessment, and Ecological Impacts in Karst: Special Issue call for papers

The journal “Water “ invites manuscript submissions for this upcoming special issue. Submission deadline is 20 September 2025.

For more information:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special_issues/5D1T70HG52

Upcoming KC Events

Visual Karsys Courses

The next dates for Visual karsys & GeoModelling courses are:

- September 11 - 12, 2025 (Geomodelling)

The courses are aimed at geologists and hydrogeologists working on "complex" geological environments or "heterogeneous" aquifers. They provide access to the online tool [visualkarsys.com](https://www.visualkarsys.com) for their academic or applied projects. [visualkarsys.com](https://www.visualkarsys.com) has over 1,400 users and a large network of specialists worldwide.

For more details on the courses see: <https://www.visualkarsys.com/courses>

Contact for registration /questions: info@visualkarsys.com

In addition, you are invited to have a look at the visual karsys webinar, which was recorded during the EuroGeo Surveys GMMEG Group Webinar, on October 12th, 2023:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5892kiqPA5g>

19th International Congress of Speleology

The 19th ICS is being hosted by the Brazilian Speleological Society and the National Cave Research and Conservation Center from July 20 – 27, 2025, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. The ICS will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the UIS, with the theme “60 Years of the UIS: History for the Future.”

For more information: <https://speleo2025.org/>

International Association of Geomorphologists/ Romanian Association of Geomorphologists Regional Conference on Geomorphology

This conference, scheduled for September 16-18, 2025, is organized around 23 thematic scientific sessions covering a wide range of geomorphology-connected topics, including Karst Geomorphology: A modern perspective.

Session description: We seek integrated analyses of karst landforms, aquifers, and cave deposits addressing topics such as Quaternary paleoenvironments, neotectonics, modern investigation techniques, and geomorphological issues in karst management and karst-related hazards. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and showcasing innovative approaches, this session aims to expand our understanding of karst systems and their significance in contemporary scientific and societal contexts.

We are also welcoming you to participate in the pre- and post-conference fieldtrips, which include visits to many interesting karst landmarks of Romania (Apuseni Mountains, Southern Carpathians).

You can find more details here: <https://rcg2025.geomorphology.ro/field-trips/pre-conference-2/>, <https://rcg2025.geomorphology.ro/field-trips/post-conference/>.

National Cave & Karst Management Symposium

The 26th National Cave & Karst Management Symposium will be held 6 – 10 October, 2025 in Ely, NV, USA. This conference will include a day of short courses, three days of talks, and a field trip. In addition, there will be an Orientation to Cave Rescue course hosted by the National Cave Rescue Commission the weekend before the conference. For more information see:

<https://ely2025.nckms.org/>

2025 Geological Society of America meeting

The 2025 GSA annual meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas on 19 - 22 October, 2025 (<https://connects.geosociety.org/>). There are numerous karst themed sessions as part of the conference. In particular, one session will be held in memory of KC member Alexander Klimchouk: session T109: Hypogene Speleogenesis: an overview of research in memory of Dr. Alexander Klimchouk.

For details on how to submit an abstract, go to <https://gsameetings.secure-platform.com/connects25>. To search for this special session, click on Topical Sessions, which will take you to a page with a search bar. Enter “Klimchouk” into the search and you’ll get the information you need to send your abstract for this session.

Please join us in honoring this great man and his great contributions to cave and karst science. And for those of you in central Texas, remember that the Edwards Aquifer is hypogenic, and as are many of the caves across the Edwards Plateau and in west Texas.

IAH 2025 congress

The website for the IAH-2025 conference to be held in Melbourne, Australia, is now open and invites participants to express their interest today. For details see:

<https://iah2025congress.com/>

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