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ASSOCIATION  
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# TUCSON CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 5, 2025





## AGA TUCSON CONFERENCE

**FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

**Marriott University Park Hotel. Tucson, AZ**

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Welcome to the 2025 AGA Tucson Conference! It is a privilege to host you at this premier event, where we unite to explore the latest advancements in gemology. This year's conference boasts an outstanding lineup of expert presentations from distinguished leaders who generously share their invaluable insights and knowledge. We hope these sessions provide meaningful takeaways to enhance your gemological expertise and inspire further learning.

The conference also offers an exceptional opportunity to connect and reconnect with colleagues and friends who share a passion for gems and gemology. As we gather here, we reflect on the remarkable milestones achieved in 2024, including celebrating AGA's 50th anniversary and unveiling our revamped website. These achievements reinforce AGA's commitment to providing unparalleled opportunities for education, discovery, networking, and upholding the highest ethical standards in gemology.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our generous AGA sponsors, whose unwavering support makes events like this possible. Please consider these outstanding organizations for your business needs.

To our AGA members, thank you for your active participation and dedication. For those who are not yet members, we warmly invite you to join this vibrant community of gemological professionals. Together, we can continue to elevate the field of gemology. Visit [www.agatoday.org](http://www.agatoday.org) to learn more and apply.

Here's to a day of discovery, connection, and shared passion for the world of gems.

Welcome, and enjoy the conference!

Teri Brossmer, AGA President

## AGA Leadership Board 2023-2026

AGA is led by the Board of Governors, a group of members who volunteer their time and talents to steer and grow the Association. Officers and Governors serve three-year terms.



### OFFICERS

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Teri Brossmer    | President                |
| Çiğdem Lüle      | Vice President           |
| Adam Ostrow      | Secretary                |
| Heidi Harders    | Treasurer                |
| Stuart Robertson | Immediate Past President |
| Thom Underwood   | Parliamentarian          |

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Melanie Krummel    | Alberto Scarani |
| Donna Hawrelko     | Martin Fuller   |
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2025

### ADMINISTRATION

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Bonnie Wolff    | Executive Administrator |
| Annie Phetsinor | Marketing Consultant    |

*AGA members are encouraged to communicate their interest in serving the association.*

*Elections for the new term (February 2026-2029) are scheduled for the fall of 2025.*

# AGENDA

- 08:30 AM**      **AGA Welcome & Opening Remarks**
- 08:40 AM      News from the Netherlands Gem Laboratory by Dr. Hanco Zwaan
- 09:40 AM      Diamond Grading: Technical Advancements and Lab Insights by Sharrie Woodring
- 10:30 AM      AGA Special Announcement
- 10:40 AM**      **Coffee Break & Vendor Engagement**
- 11:15 AM      The Age of Gems: Radiometric Dating and Its Application in Gem Testing by Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki
- 12:00 PM**      **Lunch Break**
- 01:15 PM      From UV Lamp to Spectroscopy: How to Get the Most Out of Your Luminescence Equipment by Dr. Emmanuel Fritsch
- 02:05 PM      Nephrite Jade: Gifts From an Evolving and Enduring Earth by Jean-Pierre Jutras
- 03:00 PM**      **Coffee Break & Vendor Engagement**
- 03:30 PM      The Role of the Gemologist-Journalist: Gathering and Fact-Checking Information by Brecken Branstrator
- 04:20 PM**      **AGA Closing Remarks**

**Live Q&A will follow each presentation. Participation is encouraged.**

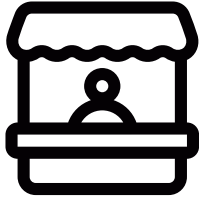
## AGA Gala Evening

06:00 PM    Cocktails  
07:00 PM    Dinner

Networking. Dinner. Silent Auction. Raffle. Dancing.  
2024 AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award Recognition

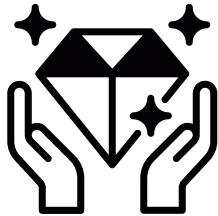


## OPPORTUNITIES



### AGA Conference Vendors

Conference attendees are warmly encouraged to explore, connect, and gain insights from the vendors showcased around the conference ballroom. Take advantage of conference breaks and lunchtime to visit their displays, engage in meaningful conversations, and discover valuable resources and opportunities they have to offer.



### AGA Tucson Auction

Tucson Silent Auction features a curated selection of valuable items for the highest bidder. From dazzling gemstones and gemological books to state-of-the-art equipment, specialized services, and one-of-a-kind gemology experiences, there's something for everyone. Auction items will be prominently displayed during the conference and gala, with bidding open at both events. Don't miss your chance to take home something truly exceptional!



### AGA Tucson Raffle

Get your tickets now—just \$10 each or \$20 for three! Don't miss this GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY to win a free registration for the 2026 AGA Tucson Conference and Gala. Secure your chance to attend this premier event today!

### Auction Donors

The AGA sincerely thanks these individuals and organizations whose generous contributions made the 2025 AGA Tucson Silent Auction possible. Your support is deeply appreciated!

Heidi Harders, Chicago Gem & Jewelry Evaluations Services  
 Kerry Gregory, Gemmology Rocks  
 Melissa Scarani, Gemology Resources  
 Richard Hughes, Lotus Gemology  
 Sindi Schloss, International Gemological Services  
 Stuller Inc.  
 Teri Brossmer, Gem Appraisals Unlimited  
 Hodgkinson Family  
 Nassi Family

Giovanni Pace  
 Jeffrey Bergman  
 John & Kristi Koivula  
 Luca D'Angiola  
 Renee Newman  
 Robert Weldon  
 Ron Boyd  
 Terry Davis  
 Tom Chatham



# AGA SILENT AUCTION

## BIDDING CLOSES AT 8:00 PM

ART &  
CLASSES

- Set of three photomicrography aluminum prints each measuring 12x12"
- 3 microphoto posters 50x50 cm, including 2 of diamond trigons and a three-phase inclusion in a Colombian emerald
- "Perfect the Polariscope" a virtual class

BOOKS

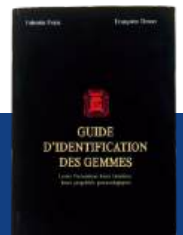
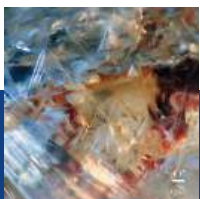
- The Chatham Legacy, An American Story by Tom Chatham
- Exotic Gems: Volume 3 & 4, Rare Gemstones by Renee Newman
- 18th Annual Sinkankas Symposium - Alexandrite and Other Color-Change Gemstones
- Symbolism in Global Jewelry by Sindi Schloss
- Broken Bangle, The Blunder-Besmirched History of Jade Nomenclature by Liu Shang-I (Eduard), Richard Hughes, Zhou Zhengu (Adam), Kaylan Khourie
- Gem Testing Techniques by Alan Hodgkinson
- Guide D'Identification Des Gemmes by Valentin Fejoz and Francoise Besset, in French
- The MicroWorld of Diamonds by John I. Koivula

EQUIPMENT

- GIA Illuminator Polariscope 415000
- GIA Duplex II Refractometer
- Gem-N-Eye III Digital Refractometer & Gemstone Computer
- Handheld Calcite Dichroscope in original leather wrap.
- Handheld Diffraction Grating Spectroscope
- GIA Diamond Lite - Diamond Color Grading Unit with tilting stone grading tray
- Portalab Gemological Laboratory

GEMS &  
JEWELRY

- Natural rutilated quartz, pear-shape, 25.90 ct, 35.7 (L) x 17.7 (W) x 7.5 (D) mm
- Oval and round jadeite lot with two cultured pearls
- 2 inch opal in matrix pendant with copper finding
- Layout fancy shape amethyst and pink tourmaline trillions
- Victorian hand carved coral seal 2.25 inch by 3/4 inch bird on a grape vine
- 8mm x 4mm marquise loose chrome tourmaline 0.42 ct
- 3.31ct Deep Purple-Red Trillion Spinel from Vietnam
- Cameo on Sardonic Shell Cassis Madagascarensis 63mm length "Hermes & Medusa"



Additional items may not be listed due to print deadlines





SESSION 1

News from the Netherlands  
Gem Laboratory

The Netherlands Gem Laboratory has been active over 55 years and has always been one of the laboratories of the National Museum of Natural History, ensuring an independent position in testing gemstones and pearls. Because presumably it is relatively unknown in America, this presentation will show some of the history of this laboratory and current activities.

Some of the topics will be the encounter with the trade in gemstones with healing power in our country, fake news and the avalanche of 'certificates', synthetic diamonds and genuine reports, and our recent study of the history and properties of the 38.23 ct Banjarmasin diamond from Kalimantan, and its current status.



NEDERLANDS EDELSTEEN LABORATORIUM

N E T H E R L A N D S  
G E M  
L A B O R A T O R Y

Presenter



Dr. Hanco Zwaan

N E T H E R L A N D S  
G E M  
L A B O R A T O R Y

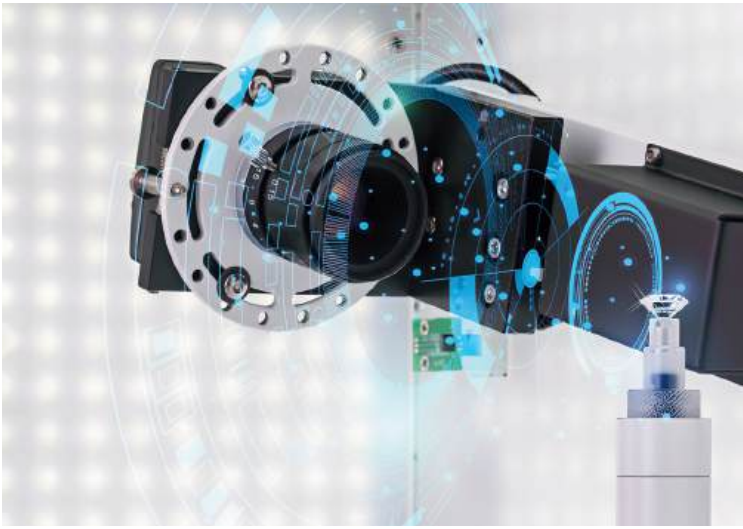
Dr. Hanco Zwaan joined the National Museum of Natural History Naturalis (Naturalis Biodiversity Center), Leiden, the Netherlands, in 1995, as curator of minerals and gems and became head of the Netherlands Gem Laboratory soon thereafter.

Daily responsibilities include issuing gem and pearl identification reports and diamond grading reports, teaching gemmology, and studying processes in the Earth's crust that have led to the formation of gemstones.

Dr. Zwaan has a PhD from Free University of Amsterdam in Geology, specializing in the formation of emeralds, where he published 'the Gemmology, geology and origin of the Sandawana emerald deposits, Zimbabwe'. Additionally, he has published articles on a variety of other gemological and mineralogical topics, including copper-bearing tourmaline, sapphire, and pearls.

In association with Gem-A, London, he teaches the FGA program at the Netherlands Gem Laboratory (FGA) and is involved in education leading to the European Gemmology diploma (FEEG).

Hanco Zwaan is currently president of the World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) Gemmological Commission, which deals with nomenclature issues and laboratory best practices. He also co-chairs a committee on gem varietal names, which addresses variety definitions and trade names.



SESSION 2  
Diamond Grading: Technological  
Advancements and Lab Insights

In this presentation, Sharrie Woodring from GCAL by Sarine will discuss what’s happening in the world of diamond grading. The presentation will cover the latest characteristics and quality trends observed in lab- grown diamonds submitted to GCAL labs. It will also address how technological advancements are transforming traditional grading techniques, with a particular emphasis on the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in grading.

The discussion will explore the development of AI systems and their role in improving accuracy, particularly in color, clarity and polish grading, along with fluorescence evaluation and cut analysis. The topic of diamond traceability will also be addressed, focusing on the methods used to track diamonds from mine to market through the Diamond Journey process.

Presenter



Sharrie Woodring

Sharrie Woodring, GIA GG, FGA, is an experienced gemologist with over 25 years in the field. Since 2005, she has served as a Senior Gemologist at the GCAL lab in New York, where her expertise lies in analyzing and grading a wide range of gemstones, with a particular focus on lab-grown and colored diamonds.

Her experience includes international assignments like the analysis of the remarkable 1,109-carat Lesedi La Rona diamond for Sotheby's and Lucara in 2016. Throughout her career, Sharrie has been at the forefront of gemological advancements, from the HPHT color treatment process introduction to the progression of lab-grown diamonds. She has played a key role in developing GCAL's diamond certification procedures, ensuring accuracy through research instrumentation and adherence to strict ISO standards.

Her passion for the field is further reflected in her contributions to gemological education and her authorship of a book on lab-grown diamonds. She is actively engaged in facilitating the global expansion of laboratory services at GCAL, and the integration of AI diamond grading instrumentation from Sarine Technologies into their grading processes.



SESSION 3

The Age of Gems: Radiometric dating and its application in gem testing

Radiometric dating of gemstones provides fascinating insights into their formation millions of years ago.

In this presentation the focus is on the link between large scale geological processes and the formation of gems, and how this can be very useful in gemstone testing in a laboratory.

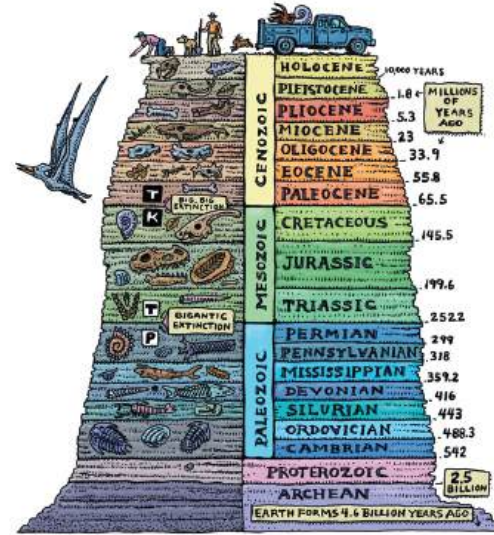
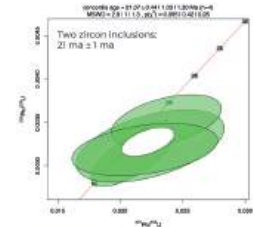
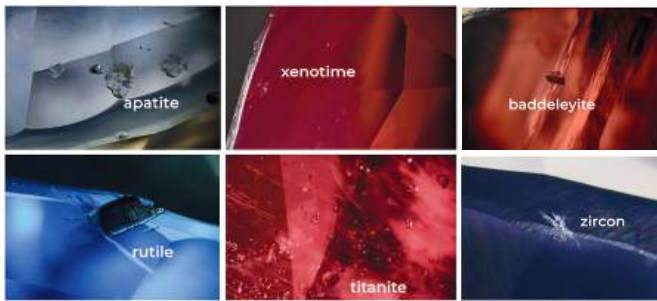


Illustration by Ray Troll



Kashmir sapphire of 43 ct, royal blue. Sold for US\$ 6 million at Christie's New York in December 2020.

Presenter



Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki

Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki is director at the Swiss Gemmological Institute SSEF, internationally reputed as the leading laboratory for the testing of colored stones, diamonds and pearls.

Apart from working at the SSEF since more than 25 years, he is lecturer at the University Basel and is supervising gemology-related research projects in collaboration with Swiss universities and international research facilities. In 2017, he was awarded the Gemmological Excellence Award of the Swiss Gemmological Society.

Furthermore, he is appointed member of the Scientific Board of the Swiss Gemmological Society SGS, the Executive Board of the International Gemmological Conference IGC, the Committee on Gemstone Varietal Names (CVN) by CIBJO, the Laboratory Manual Harmonisation Committee LMHC, the Technical Board for the Standardization of Fei Cui (Jadeite) Testing by HKTDC, and further technical and editorial boards.

As an internationally renowned expert he is a frequent speaker at gemological conferences worldwide and has published numerous articles in scientific and trade journals on gems, pearls, and new analytical testing methods.

2024 RECIPIENT  
AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEMOLOGY





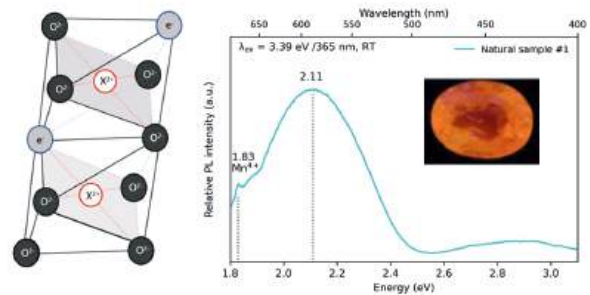


## SESSION 4

### From UV Lamp to Spectroscopy: How to Get the Most Out of Your Luminescence Equipment

Luminescence observations in gemology are still being done with classical UV lamps, but many alternatives are now offered, just as easy to use, such as lasers. Also, some specially made luminescence instruments are found on the market, but most gemologists do not have them. We will explain how to do a good description of the luminescence of gems, not forgetting any character that might be relevant. We will give examples of why this is relevant, and some extra things that can be done with just classical gemology to have a hint of the cause of luminescence for example.

Independently from classical gemology, luminescence spectroscopy has become a routine method in many industries. With that came the development of all sorts of instruments, that help develop insights into the cause of luminescence. We will briefly explain how this is done, on the example of shortwave blue luminescence seen in many gems (sapphire but also tourmaline, opal, glass and others), related to titanate groups.



Orange luminescence in sapphire



## Presenter



Dr. Emmanuel  
Fritsch

2013 RECIPIENT  
AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEMOLOGY

Dr. Emmanuel Fritsch is a professor of physics at the University of Nantes (NantesUniversité) in western France. He holds a geological engineering degree from the ENSG, Nancy, Eastern France, and a Ph.D. from the Sorbonne (university Paris VII) in Paris.

He worked for nearly ten years at the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) in the USA, where he became a Graduate Gemologist (GG), and was promoted manager of GIA Research from 1992 to 1995.

His research is currently conducted at the Institut des Matériaux Jean Rouxel (IMN-CNRS) in Nantes.

Dr. Fritsch interests range wide, with all aspects of science that can be applied to gems, and his self-assigned mission is to make gemology more scientific. He has authored over 400 articles and collaborated to over 20 books.

He is responsible for the DUG (Diplôme d'Université de Gemmologie) diploma, an internationally recognized advanced gemology program.





SESSION 5

Nephrite Jade: Gifts from an evolving and enduring earth

From the 10,000 foot view to the micro level. This presentation will explore the past, present and potential future of nephrite jade as a gemstone from a gemological, industry and market point of view.

Nephrite Jade has one of the longest histories of any gemstone in the world, yet that history was always driven by sources, culture, technologies and geopolitics. The presentation will focus on what it is, how it has been recognized through history, and what it looks like in today's world.

A stone embraced by conquerors, kings and emperors through time certainly deserves attention, and this presentation will seek to lay out how special this material has been in the past, and perhaps the future.

Presenter



Jean-Pierre Jutras

**Jade Leader Corp.**

Mr. Jutras is a professional geologist with over 35 years of experience in the mineral exploration industry. While working in northern British Columbia, Canada, Mr. Jutras collected some Jade samples from a mine visit. This experience launched a parallel avocation as a student and collector of Jades from around the world and grew to include gemstone carving, faceting, and metalsmith.

Jean-Pierre received invitations to compete at the prestigious Chinese Zi Gang Bey Jade and gemstone carving competition in November 2016, 2017, and 2019, where he was awarded a silver and then a bronze medal.

A one-month initial research journey to some of the major Jade carving centers and markets in China revealed the scale of the changes in the Jade industry which led to the realignment of his path from industrial commodities such as gold, copper, and silver to a single focus on Jade in North America, including exploration, research, and new discoveries.

Two peer-reviewed articles authored by Mr. Jutras were published in Gem-A's Journal of Gemmology, introducing a Washington nephrite jade exhibiting pleochroism as a phenomenal stone and pure primary hydrothermal jades from Wyoming, a new formational model for jade with many implications in today's global gem trade.

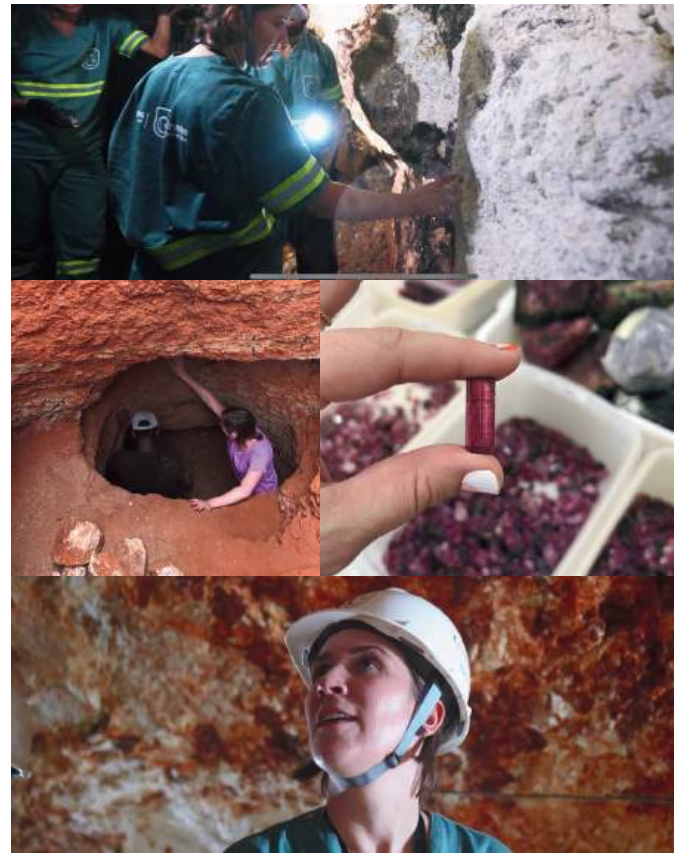


## SESSION 6

### The Role of the Gemologist-Journalist: Gathering and Fact-Checking Information

Longtime industry writer and GIA GG Brecken Branstrator has long considered herself one of the luckiest members of the press, getting to travel the world to visit important gem hubs, source countries, and industry events to gather information and accounts firsthand. But when she travels to source content, she's balancing her role as a journalist with that of a gemologist to find and communicate the most important information.

During her session, Brecken will demonstrate how she wears both hats to gather information on her trips, decide what is relevant, and fact-check what she receives so gemologists can trust in what's being published.



## Presenter



Brecken Branstrator

Brecken Branstrator is the editor-in-chief of Gemworld International's GemGuide publication, the industry leader for gemstone pricing and market information and trends. She has written about gems and jewelry for more than a decade and has dedicated herself to covering the colored gemstone sector in depth, from topics like supply and pricing to responsible sourcing developments and other topics vital to those operating in the colored stone sector.

She has traveled extensively across the United States and internationally to attend trade shows and conferences as both attendee and speaker, visit brands and source markets, and conduct research and interviews for articles. She has been lucky enough to interact firsthand with many levels of the supply chain, from adventures into mines to witnessing gem cutting and buying in markets firsthand, informing much of her writing and her editorial direction.

Based in New York, she previously spent nine years at National Jeweler, seven of which she spent as senior editor for gemstones. In 2017, she was named a Women's Jewelry Association Awards for Excellence Editorial Nominee, and in 2019, she was nominated for a Gem Award for Media Excellence.



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Canadian  
Gemmological  
Association



# AGA Membership

AGA members improve gemological skills and earn recognition through active participation in educational programs and industry forums while gaining the personal satisfaction of contributing to the profession.

AGA membership includes some of the world's leading gemologists. Membership options are available for all experience levels from students to professional gemologists.



**AGA GLOBAL NETWORK**

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Member Designations

Member Community

Certified Gem Lab

Member-Only Education Events

Member Profile on website

Member Savings

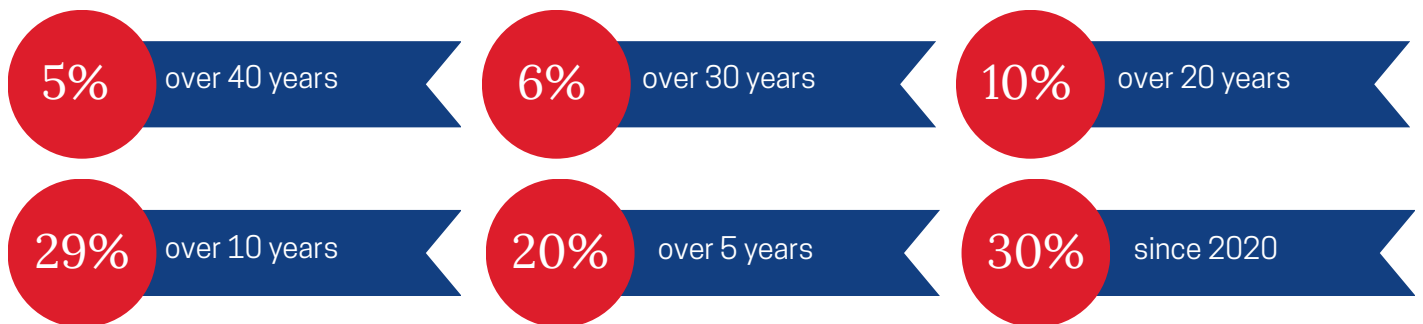
Find an AGA Member on website



Scan to learn more!

## MEMBERSHIP LOYALTY

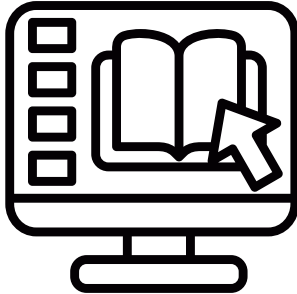
The value of AGA membership and affiliation is recognized by our members worldwide, as seen by the membership's years of loyalty.



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

Join AGA for virtual events\* or benefit from their recordings

## AGA VIRTUAL LIBRARY



AGA hosted webinars, career forums, and celebrity gemologist interviews are recorded and can be viewed via the AGA Virtual Library. Access is open to all.

WATCH ON DEMAND AND FIND US ON YOUTUBE:  
**[BIT.LY/AGAHOSTEDWEBINARS](https://bit.ly/AGAHOSTEDWEBINARS)**  
**[WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@AGAGEMOLOGY](https://www.youtube.com/@AGAGEMOLOGY)**

### AGA HOSTED WEBINARS

Delivered live exclusively to AGA members\*, recorded webinars feature gem and jewelry researchers, experts, and historians.



### AGA CAREER FORUMS

Live and interactive, forums host industry experts in the world of gemology. Panelists share their career insights and professional journeys with the attendees.



### AGA CELEBRITY GEMOLOGIST INTERVIEWS

This professional development series features live interviews with industry leaders and legends.



\*Select events offer live participation for AGA members only



# AGA Gemological Scholarship

AGA is dedicated to promoting and supporting gemological education and research

## 2024 AGA GEMOLOGICAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SARA KURTH

The AGA Gemological Scholarship will allow Ms. Kurth to complete GIA studies and use her knowledge to teach the public about gems and gemology as a museum educator. Ms. Kurth's unwavering dedication to educating the public about rocks, minerals, and now, gems is truly inspiring. Her academic journey began at Beloit College, where she pursued Geology with a minor in Museum Studies. With her children growing, she is eager to return to school and enhance her gemological knowledge by earning a GIA GG.



### AGA GEMOLOGICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

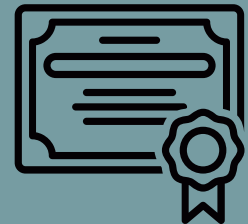
AGA awards educational scholarships in the field of gemology to need and merit-based recipients around the globe. If you are pursuing a career in gemology and need assistance with your education then we encourage you to apply.

[agatoday.org/scholarship](http://agatoday.org/scholarship)



### 2025 AGA SCHOLARSHIP

February 1 - Application period opens  
April 15 - Application deadline  
June 1 - Recipient notified



Questions about the scholarship or grant? Please visit us here in Tucson, at the AGA booth (#27) located at the AGTA Gem Fair Galleria level or email AGA at [info@agatoday.org](mailto:info@agatoday.org)



# AGA Gemological Research Grant

AGA is dedicated to promoting and supporting gemological education and research

## 2024 AGA GEMOLOGICAL RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT

### DR. CLEMENS SCHWARZINGER



Dr. Schwarzingger is Associate Professor of Chemistry at Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. He founded the Center for Scientific Gemmology at the University of Linz in 2016. His academic interests focus on the identification of gem treatments and mineral chemistry, particularly on the use of trace elements to determine garnets' origin. Dr. Schwarzingger will apply for the AGA Gemological Research Grant to further his study of determining the geographic origin of grossular garnets through luminescence.



## AGA GEMOLOGICAL RESEARCH GRANT

Are you developing a scientific gemological research project? AGA may be able to help! In keeping with our mission to encourage and support gemological education and research, the AGA Gemological Research Grant provides funding of up to \$10,000 for approved gemological research as authorized by the AGA Board of Governors.

[agatoday.org/research-grant](http://agatoday.org/research-grant)



Deadlines for AGA Research Grant are TBD.  
Check out our website to stay updated!



Questions about the scholarship or grant? Please visit us here in Tucson, at the AGA booth (#27) located at the AGTA Gem Fair Galleria level or email AGA at [info@agatoday.org](mailto:info@agatoday.org)

# AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEMOLOGY



RESEARCH ♦ KNOWLEDGE ♦ EDUCATION ♦ INTEGRITY

## Award Recipients 2000 – 2024



Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki  
Dr. Jeffrey Post  
Gary Roskin  
Robert Weldon  
Donna Hawrelko  
Karl Schmetzer



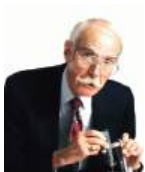
Mikko Åström  
Alberto Scarani  
Dr. William Hanneman  
Al Gilbertson  
Dr. Çiğdem Lüle  
Dr. Thomas Hainschwang



Dr. John Emmett  
Dr. Emmanuel Fritsch  
Thom Underwood  
Stuart Robertson  
Richard W. Hughes  
Christopher P. Smith



Dr. James Shigley  
Shane McClure  
Richard Drucker  
Alan Jobbins  
Antoinette Matlins  
Dr. Henry A. Hänni



G. Robert Crowningshield  
John I. Koivula  
C.R. Beesley  
Alan Hodgkinson



Learn more about past  
award recipients by  
scanning the QR code

Bonanno award recipients are recognized during  
the AGA Gala Awards Ceremony and Dinner  
following the AGA Conference in Tucson, AZ.



## AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEMOLOGY

RESEARCH ♦ KNOWLEDGE ♦ EDUCATION ♦ INTEGRITY

### AGA Honors Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki with 2024 AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology

The Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) is proud to announce Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki, Director of the Swiss Gemological Institute SSEF, as the 2024 recipient of the esteemed Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology. Selected by AGA membership, this prestigious honor recognizes Dr. Krzemnicki's exceptional contributions and steadfast dedication to gemology.

With over 25 years of service at SSEF, one of the world's leading laboratories for colored stones, diamonds, and pearls, Dr. Krzemnicki has firmly established himself as a global authority in gemology. Alongside his role at SSEF, he is a lecturer at the University of Basel and actively supervises gemology-related research in collaboration with Swiss universities and international research institutions. His extensive published works in scientific and trade journals further underscore his impact on the field. In 2017, Dr. Krzemnicki's achievements were recognized when he received the Gemological Excellence Award from the Swiss Gemological Society.

Dr. Krzemnicki serves on several prominent boards and committees, including the Scientific Board of the Swiss Gemmological Society (SGS), the Executive Board of the International Gemmological Conference (IGC), the Committee on Gemstone Varietal Names (CVN) by CIBJO, the Laboratory Manual Harmonisation Committee (LMHC), and the Technical Board for the Standardization of Fei Cui (Jadeite) Testing by HKTDC.

An internationally sought-after speaker, Dr. Krzemnicki will be among the experts presenting at the AGA Gemological Conference in Tucson, Arizona, on February 5, 2025. Following the conference, he will be honored as the 2024 Bonanno Award recipient at the AGA Gala Dinner-Dance, where he will receive a personalized plaque and an honorarium funded by the AGA membership.

This recognition underscores Dr. Krzemnicki's profound impact on gemology and his unwavering dedication to advancing the science and understanding of gems worldwide.



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# Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence in Gemology: The AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award

Established to honor the legacy of Antonio C. Bonanno, a pivotal figure in the founding of the Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA), the AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology recognizes individuals who have made transformative contributions to the field of gemology.

Over the past 25 years, this prestigious award has celebrated recipients whose work has left an enduring impact on gemology. It serves as a beacon of encouragement and recognition for advancements in gemological research, education, innovation, and ethical practices. Honorees include leading research gemologists from world-renowned laboratories, educators, market analysts, and innovators in equipment and technology that have significantly influenced the industry.

The inaugural award was presented in 2000 to Alan Hodgkinson, a distinguished gemologist renowned for his 20+ years of contributions to the industry.

Alan Hodgkinson (1937 - 2024)



Inaugural recipient of the AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology in 2000

(Above) Original nomination form printed in the Fall 1999 issue of Cornerstone

Alan was celebrated for creating the acclaimed two-day Practical Gem Identification Course and for his dedication as a global lecturer. His passion and commitment to sharing knowledge embodied the spirit of the award, which he upheld until his passing in October 2024.

Recipients of the AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award are chosen by majority vote of AGA members. The honor includes global recognition, a specially commissioned plaque and medallion, and an honorarium funded by AGA members.

Nominations are open to the entire gemological community worldwide, and neither the nominee nor the nominator needs to be an AGA member. Nominations must be for individual candidates rather than teams.

Want to nominate someone for the next AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award?  
Scan the QR code to submit your nomination!



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# LOOKING AHEAD...

ACCREDITED GEMOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION

## 2025 AGA EVENTS

MARCH	AGA ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING
APRIL	AGA VIRTUAL CAREER FORUM
MAY	AGA HOSTED WEBINAR
JUNE	AGA VIRTUAL DIAMOND CONFERENCE
AUGUST	AGA GEMOLOGICAL CELEBRITY INTERVIEW
NOVEMBER	AGA HOSTED WEBINAR



### FEBRUARY 2026

AGA TUCSON GEMOLOGICAL CONFERENCE & GALA \*  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026  
TUCSON, AZ

*\*2025 AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD RECOGNITION*



AT THE INTERSECTION OF GEMOLOGY AND EDUCATION



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ASSOCIATION  
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AGA is an independent, international, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in gemology and upholding the highest ethical and professional standards in:

- Gemological education
- Scientific gemological research
- Identification & quality determination of gem materials and jewelry

Established in 1974, the Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) was envisioned as a network for sharing gemological information and skills. Today's Accredited Gemologists Association proudly counts some of the world's leading gemologists among our members.

Governed by standards, the association and our members abide by AGA Code of Ethics, Bylaws, and Constitution



Scan our QR code to learn more!

