Editorial Foreword to the thematic issue of the Geologica Carpathica journal

"Accessory minerals: Tracers of petrogenesis", a tribute to Igor Broska on the occasion of his 70th anniversary

RNDr. Igor Broska, DrSc., our long-time colleague and dear friend, undoubtedly ranks among the outstanding and internationally-recognized specialists in the field of accessory minerals. Accessory minerals are typically very small and rare components of igneous and metamorphic rocks, yet their genetic significance for understanding the evolution of the host rock is irreplaceable, as demonstrated by hundreds of recent contributions in the geological literature. On the occasion of his 70th birthday, we are pleased to present a collection of contributions concerning the importance of accessory minerals, published in two issues (3/2025 and 4/2025) of the Geologica Carpathica journal.

Igor Broska (born June 16, 1955 in Bratislava, Slovakia) graduated from the Comenius University in Bratislava in 1979, and since then he has been working continuously at the Geological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava (now the Earth Science Institute) where he has been active for over forty-five years. During this time at the institute, he successfully defended his higher doctorate (DrSc) dissertation on the topic of accessory minerals, which he prepared together with the monograph "Broska I., Petrík I., Uher P., 2012: *Accessory Minerals of Granite Rocks of the Western Carpathians*" Veda 235 pp. Igor's scientific research focuses on detailed geochemical and petrogenetic characterisation of the most common accessory minerals (zircon, monazite, allanite, apatite, garnet, tourmaline, titanite, and Fe–Ti oxides), including their chemical composition, textures, stability, radiometric dating and breakdown products. Among many notable contributions, Igor, together with Prof. F. Finger, provided a fundamental description, characterization and explanation of the post-magmatic disintegration of monazite, which leads to the formation of coronal textures of apatite, allanite and epidote on monazite (this paper from 1998 has already over 250 registered citations in the SCOPUS database). Igor's research on the basis of accessory minerals has significantly improved our understanding of the evolution of the Variscan orogen-related as well as the Permian rare-metal and A-type granites in the Western Carpathians. Furthermore, Igor is a co-author of several geological maps in areas with the occurrences of granite and crystalline basement in Slovakia.

In addition to his tireless scientific work, Igor has been actively involved in the administration of the institute, many years as a deputy director. From 2010 to 2015, he served as a director of the Geological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and from 2015 to 2019, as a director of the Earth Science Institute. Igor also demonstrated organizational skills as the editor-in-chief of the *Geologica Carpathica* journal since 2009. He successfully supervised five PhD. students and several postdoctoral fellows.

Dear Igor, we wish you continued good health, optimism and more fruitful scientific ideas. We look forward to further cooperation with you. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all the authors who contributed to these two issues, and to the reviewers who handled the articles.

Pavel Uher, Milan Kohút and Martin Ondrejka (guest editors)