Recent advances in the field of mineralogy and petrology have significantly impacted our understanding of the evolution and properties of the Earth's crust. These advancements have also extended into the realms of gemology, where minerals are used to create valuable stones and crystals with broad applications in traditional and modern technology.

The Society for Applied Mineralogy (SAM), a vibrant community of scientists and enthusiasts, promotes the study of mineralogy and its applications in various fields. With a strong emphasis on fostering interdisciplinary research and collaboration, the society organizes annual meetings and supports a diverse range of initiatives to encourage the exchange of ideas and knowledge.

In this issue of Elements, we highlight a selection of recent papers and contributions that reflect the breadth and depth of the society's activities. These include studies on the formation and exploration of gem deposits, research on the geochemistry and chemical composition of gemstones, and discussions on the role of mineralogy in the development of new materials.

Additionally, there are articles that touch on the beauty and cultural significance of minerals and gemstones, exploring their historical, artistic, and economic importance. These pieces contribute to a comprehensive view of the field, showcasing the latest research and insights that underscore the relevance of mineralogy in contemporary society.

Whether you are a new member or a long-time supporter, we encourage you to explore this issue and engage with the community. Together, we can continue to advance our understanding of minerals and their significance in shaping the world around us.