

MDRU Board of Directors & EOAS–UBC Announce Appointment of Incoming MDRU Director and Transition Plan

August 13, 2020

The Board of Directors of the MDRU–Mineral Deposit Research Unit (“MDRU”) and the UBC Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences (“EOAS”) are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Shaun Barker as Incoming Director of MDRU, effective January 1, 2021.

After completing his Ph.D. at the Australian National University in 2007, Dr. Barker worked for five years as a postdoctoral research fellow at MDRU, developing novel tools for vectoring towards Carlin-type gold deposits, and new stable isotope methods suitable for the mineral exploration industry. In 2012, he joined the University of Waikato in New Zealand as a senior lecturer in Earth Sciences, conducting research on low-sulfidation epithermal gold deposits at Waihi. Dr. Barker subsequently joined the Centre for Ore Deposit and Earth Sciences (CODES) at the University of Tasmania in Australia as an Associate Professor in Economic Geology. At CODES, he led a strong industry-linked research program, focussing on exploration vectors for the Mount Isa Copper deposit, the mineral chemistry of iron oxide copper-gold (IOCG) deposits and sediment-hosted base metals deposits in Northwest Queensland, Australia, and the development of new resistate indicator mineral tools for sediment-hosted copper deposits.

“EOAS is delighted to welcome Dr. Barker back to UBC in his new capacity as MDRU Director” said EOAS Head Dr. Philippe Tortell. “He will bring innovative research approaches to the unit, and play a strong role in mentoring trainees. I look forward to supporting Dr. Barker to build on the many successful programs initiated by Dr. Craig Hart over the past 11 years”.

Former MDRU Director Dr. Craig Hart concluded his 11-year tenure on June 30, 2020. “On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to offer our deep appreciation to Craig Hart for his dedication and leadership of MDRU” said Dr. Andrew Davies and Dr. Andy Wurst, Co-Chairs of the MDRU Board of Directors. “We are grateful that Craig will continue to support MDRU through the transition process as we welcome Shaun in the new year.”

For the period July 1 – December 30, 2020, Dr. Simon Peacock will serve as Interim Director of MDRU. Dr. Peacock is a professor in UBC’s Department of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, whose research focusses on the metamorphic petrology and seismo-tectonics of subduction zones. Dr. Peacock previously served as Dean of UBC’s Faculty of Science from 2006 to 2018, during which time he sat on the MDRU Board of Directors.

About MDRU

MDRU–Mineral Deposit Research Unit is a collaborative research venture between the minerals industry and The University of British Columbia’s (UBC) Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences. MDRU is an integrated geological, geochemical and geophysical research group, which develops solutions to exploration and mining problems through applied geoscientific research projects. These projects form the basis for graduate student education and training and their eventual employment in the industry. The MDRU research program is diverse and international in scope, with graduate students from across the world, and a current emphasis on the western margins of North and South Americas, Eastern Europe and central Eurasia. MDRU also provides professional development opportunities to the economic geology community through short courses, workshops and in-house training. MDRU began operations in 1990, marking its 30th anniversary in 2020.

For further information contact:

Jeanne Liu

Events & Stakeholder Relations Manager

mdru@eoas.ubc.ca.